E/1993/SR.1-49

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1993

PLENARY MEETINGS

Summary records of the meetings held during
the organizational session for 1993
and the substantive session of 1993

UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 1995

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993*, consist of the summary records of *Plenary Meetings*, incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-18) and the *Lists of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during the organizational session for 1993 (New York, between 26 January and 26 May) and the substantive session of 1993, including the high-level segment (Geneva, 28 June to 30 July, and New York, 21 October and 8 December).

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCPOQ	Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
DHA	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECU	European currency unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GNP	gross national product
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICC	International Computing Centre
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPHECA	International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident
ITU	International Telecommunication Organization
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress
RENAMO	Resistência Nacional Moçambicana
SNA	system of national accounts
UNARDOL	United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAF	United Task Force
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOSOM	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
UNU	United Nations University
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

EXPLANATORY NOTES

$: United States dollars

A hyphen between years, e.g. 1990-1995, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.

An oblique between years, e.g. 1993/94, indicates a financial year.

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1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process.
5. Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
6. Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions.

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1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development.
3. Policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system.
4. Conclusion of the high-level segment.

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2. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:
    (*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development;
    (*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera.
3. Operational activities for development.

4. Coordination questions:

    (*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies;

    (*b*) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

    (*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

    (*d*) Question of a United Nations year for tolerance;

    (*e*) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health.

5. Programme and related questions:

    (*a*) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

    (*b*) Calendar of conferences.

6. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance:

    (*a*) Special programmes of economic assistance;

    (*b*) Humanitarian assistance.

7. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

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    (*b*) Cartography.

13. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

14. Regional cooperation.

15. Development and international economic cooperation:

    (*a*) Trade and development;

    (*b*) Food and agricultural development;

    (*c*) Science and technology for development;

    (*d*) Transnational corporations;

    (*e*) Natural resources;

    (*f*) Population questions;

    (*g*) Human settlements;

    (*h*) Environment;

    (*i*) Desertification and drought;

    (*j*) Transport of dangerous goods;

    (*k*) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development;

    (*l*) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

    (*m*) Prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

16. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

17. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

18. Human rights questions.

19. Advancement of women.

20. Social development.

21. Narcotic drugs.

22. Elections.

23. Committee for Development Planning.

CHECK-LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the organizational session for 1993 and the substantive session of 1993. Unless otherwise indicated, the documents were issued in mimeographed form only.

Document number	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1993/1 and Add.1	Proposed basic programme of work of the Council: note by the Secretary-General	3	Organizational session for 1993
E/1993/2 and Add.1	Provisional agenda	2	*Idem*
E/1993/3 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/4	Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	18	
E/1993/5	Progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade: report of the Secretary-General	20	
E/1993/6-A/48/56	Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future: report of the Secretary-General	20	
E/1993/7	Letter dated 11 December 1992 from the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit addressed to the Secretary-General	3	*Idem*
E/1993/8	Note verbale dated 29 June 1992 from the Director-General of WHO addressed to the Secretary-General	2	*Idem*
E/1993/9	Note by the Secretariat	6	*Idem*
E/1993/10	Progress made in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22: report of the Secretary-General	20	
E/1993/11	Note verbale dated 18 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	5 and 12 (*b*)	
E/1993/12	Rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development: report of the Secretary-General	5	*Idem*
E/1993/13	Note by the Secretary-General	4	*Idem*
E/1993/14	Establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development: note by the Secretary-General	5	*Idem*
E/1993/15 and Corr.1 and Rev.1	High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development: report of the Secretary-General	5	*Idem*
E/1993/16-A/48/70	Preliminary version of the *1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*	15 (*k*)	
E/1993/17 and Add.1	Committee on Natural Resources: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/18	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the JIU report entitled "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions: performance and innovation challenges"	4 (*a*)	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1993/18/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the JIU report entitled "—: Examples of fresh approaches"	4 (*a*)	
E/1993/18/Add.2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of ACC on the JIU report entitled "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions"	4 (*a*)	
E/1993/19 and Add.1	Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/20	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	13	For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12*
E/1993/21 and Corr.1	Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: report of the Secretary-General	12 (*a*)	
E/1993/22	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its seventh session	18	*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 1993, Supplement No. 2*
E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5	Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-ninth session	18	Ibid., *Supplement No. 3*
E/1993/23/Add.1	*Idem*	18	Ibid., *Supplement No. 3 A*
E/1993/24	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-third session	20	Ibid., *Supplement No. 4*
E/1993/25 and Add.1 and Corr.1	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session and on its first session	9	Ibid., *Supplement No. 5*
E/1993/25/Add.2	Programme budget implications of draft decisions contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	9	
E/1993/26	Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-seventh session	12 (*a*)	Ibid., *Supplement No. 6*
E/1993/27 and Corr.1	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session	15 (*k*) and 19	Ibid., *Supplement No. 7*
E/1993/28	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its first session	15 (*e*)	Ibid., *Supplement No. 8*
E/1993/29/Rev.1	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-sixth session	21	Ibid., *Supplement No. 9*
E/1993/30	Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its nineteenth session	15 (*d*)	Ibid., *Supplement No. 10*
E/1993/31	Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its first session	15 (*c*)	Ibid., *Supplement No. 11*
E/1993/31/Add.1	Programme budget implications of draft decisions contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its first session: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	15 (*c*)	
E/1993/32	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its second session	20	Ibid., *Supplement No. 12*
E/1993/34	Report of the Executive Board of UNICEF	3	Ibid., *Supplement No. 14*
E/1993/35	Report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its organizational meeting for 1993 and its fortieth session	3	Ibid., *Supplement No. 15*
E/1993/35/Add.1	Report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its special session	3	Ibid., *Supplement No. 15 A*

Document number	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1993/36-E/ESCAP/927	Annual report of ESCAP (24 April 1992-29 April 1993)	14	Ibid., *Supplement No. 16*
E/1993/37-E/ECE/1284	Annual report of ECE (16 April 1992-27 April 1993)	14	Ibid., *Supplement No. 17*
E/1993/38-E/ECA/CM.19/27	Annual report of ECA (24 April 1992-6 May 1993)	14	Ibid., *Supplement No. 18*
E/1993/39	Fifth Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas: report of the Secretary-General	12 (*b*)	
E/1993/40	Report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1992	11	
E/1993/41	Letter dated 29 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	5	Organizational session for 1993
E/1993/42	Items for consideration at the resumed organizational session for 1993: note by the Secretariat	2	*Idem*
E/1993/43	Proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001: note by the Secretariat	19	
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E/1993/45	Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1992	21	
E/1993/46	Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1992	14	
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E/1993/47/Add.2	—: summary of activities in 1992 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of the ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices	4 (*a*)	
E/1993/48	Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of ESCWA, 1992	14	
E/1993/49	Progress report on the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development: report of the Secretary-General of the Conference	15 (*f*)	
E/1993/50/Rev.1	*Report on the World Social Situation, 1993*	20	United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.IV.2
E/1993/51	Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development: report of the Secretary-General	19	
E/1993/52	Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1992	14	
E/1993/53	Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1992-1993	14	
E/1993/54	Summary of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1992-1993: note by the Secretary-General	14	
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E/1993/56	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of WHO	4 (*e*)	
E/1993/57	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: report of the Secretary-General	15 (*j*)	
E/1993/58	Promotion of press freedom in the world: note by the Secretariat	4	
E/1993/59-A/48/159	Note by the Secretary-General	15 (*m*)	

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E/1993/60-ST/ESA/237	*World Economic Survey 1993—Current Trends and Policies in the World Economy*	15 and 3	Agenda item 3 of the high-level segment. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.C.1
E/1993/61 and Add.1	Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1993/62-A/48/168 and Corr.1	Letter dated 10 May 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General	6 (*b*)	
E/1993/63 and Corr.1 and 2	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	10	
E/1993/64	Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory: note by the Secretary-General	15 (*g*)	
E/1993/65	Representation of and consultations with non-governmental organizations: note by the Secretariat. List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation to the Commission on Sustainable Development	5	Organizational session for 1993
E/1993/66	Relationship agreements between the United Nations and member organizations of the United Nations common system: note by the Secretary-General	4	
E/1993/67	Note by the Secretariat	5 (*a*)	
E/1993/68	Report of the Secretary-General	2 (*b*)	
E/1993/69	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session	15 (*f*)	
E/1993/70-A/48/178	Update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control: note by the Secretary-General	21	
E/1993/71	Report of the Secretary-General	17	
E/1993/72	Activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration: report of the Administrator of UNDP	3	
E/1993/73	Progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199: report of the Secretary-General	3	
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E/1993/75	Effective mobilization and integration of women in development: note by the Secretary-General	15 (*k*)	
E/1993/76-A/48/187	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas: report of the Secretary-General	19	
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E/1993/78-A/48/188	Economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967: report of the Secretary-General	16	
E/1993/79	Letter dated 26 May 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council	5 (*b*)	
E/1993/80	Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar: note by the Secretary-General	14	
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E/1993/82	Task Force on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women: note by the Secretary-General	19	

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E/1993/85	Report of the Secretary-General	14	
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E/1993/86	Report of the Secretary-General	4 (*c*)	
E/1993/87	Requests from non-governmental organizations for hearings: report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	1	
E/1993/88	Note verbale dated 3 June 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	13	
E/1993/89-A/48/210	Question of a United Nations year for tolerance: note by the Secretary-General	4 (*d*)	
E/1993/90	Coordination of humanitarian assistance. Emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development: report of the Secretary-General	2 (*a*)	
E/1993/91	Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes	3	
E/1993/92-A/48/216	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region: report of the Secretary-General	15 (*i*)	
E/1993/93	Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council		*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 1*
E/1993/94	Administrative arrangements to ensure the full technical independence of the International Narcotics Control Board: note by the Secretary-General	21	
E/1993/95	Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa: note by the Secretary-General	18	
E/1993/96-A/48/218	Letter dated 22 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	8	
E/1993/97-A/48/219	Report of the Secretary-General	7	
E/1993/98	Report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid	4 (*b*)	
E/1993/99	Note verbale dated 24 June 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General	12 (*b*)	
E/1993/100	Annotated provisional agenda	1	
E/1993/101	Letter dated 2 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General	6 (*a*)	
E/1993/102	Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council	4	High-level segment

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E/1993/103	Note verbale dated 6 July 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Vienna addressed to the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna	20	
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E/1993/120	Annotated provisional agenda	1	*Idem*
E/1993/121	Results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system: background paper prepared by the United Nations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC	4	*Idem*
E/1993/122	Note by the Secretariat	18	*Idem*
E/1993/123	*Idem*	23	*Idem*
E/1993/C.1/L.1	Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar—Morocco and Spain: draft resolution	14	
E/1993/C.1/L.2	Strengthening the role of the regional commissions—Benin, Chile, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mexico, Nigeria and Togo: draft resolution	14	
E/1993/C.1/L.3	Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa—Cameroon: draft resolution	14	

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E/1993/C.1/L.4	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan—Algeria, Angola, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen: draft resolution	16	
E/1993/C.1/L.5	Coordination of United Nations activities related to HIV/AIDS—Algeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Morocco, Netherlands, Romania, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe: draft resolution	15 (*m*)	
E/1993/C.1/L.6	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its first session: draft decisions submitted by the Acting Chairman of the Economic Committee	15 (*e*)	
E/1993/C.2/L.1	Third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination—Senegal: draft resolution	17	
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E/1993/C.2/L.3	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women—Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Norway, Peru, Romania, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	19	
E/1993/C.2/L.4	Suppression of the traffic in persons—Belgium and Netherlands: draft resolution	18	
E/1993/L.1 and Add.1	Elections of members of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretary-General	6	Organizational session for 1993
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E/1993/L.3	Election of 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.4	Election of 18 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.5	Nomination of 20 members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.6	Nomination of 12 members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.7	Election of 16 members of the Governing Council of UNDP: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.8	Election of seven members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.9 and Add.1	Draft decisions submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (*l*) of Council resolution 1988/77	2 and 3	*Idem*
E/1993/L.10/Rev.1	Revised draft resolution submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (*l*) of Council resolution 1988/77	4	*Idem*
E/1993/L.11	Draft decision submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (*l*) of Council resolution 1988/77	5	*Idem*
E/1993/L.12	*Idem*	2 and 3	*Idem*
E/1993/L.13	*Idem*	2 and 3	*Idem*

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E/1993/L.14	*Idem*	2 and 3	*Idem*
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E/1993/L.19	Election of 53 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development: note by the Secretary-General	6	*Idem*
E/1993/L.20 and Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1	Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields: note by the Secretariat	5 (*b*)	
E/1993/L.21	Proposed programme of work for the substantive session of 1993	1	
E/1993/L.22 and Rev.1	Status of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat	1	
E/1993/L.23	Extract from the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its eighth session, held from 10 to 28 May 1993	18	For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 3*
E/1993/L.23/Add.1	*Idem*—Programme budget implications of the draft decisions contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and recommended for adoption by the Council: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	18	
E/1993/L.24	Extract from the report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its organizational meeting for 1993, its special session and its fortieth session	3	For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15*
E/1993/L.25	Draft agreed conclusions submitted by a Vice-President of the Council	2 (*a*)	
E/1993/L.26	*Idem*	2 (*b*)	
E/1993/L.27	Fourth replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development—Benin: draft resolution	3	
E/1993/L.28	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations	3	
E/1993/L.29-E/CN.4/1993/L.121	Administrative and programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session: note by the Secretariat	18	For the final text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3A*
E/1993/L.30	Promotion of press freedom in the world—Benin, France, Mauritius and Slovakia: draft resolution	4	
E/1993/L.31	Question of a United Nations year for tolerance—Afghanistan, Algeria, Austria, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine: draft resolution	4 (*d*)	
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E/1993/L.33	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States—Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zaire: draft resolution	4 (*c*)	

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E/1993/L.34	Review of the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations—Canada: draft resolution	10	
E/1993/L.35	Reports of the coordination bodies considered by the Economic and Social Council—India: draft decision	4 (*a*)	
E/1993/L.36 and Rev.1	Draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Council	9	
E/1993/L.37	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations—Algeria, Benin, Cuba, Guinea, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution	4 (*b*)	
E/1993/L.38	Assistance to Yemen—Algeria, Bhutan, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen: draft resolution	6 (*a*)	
E/1993/L.39	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—Spain: draft decision	13	
E/1993/L.40	Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon—Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Greece, Guinea, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution	6 (*a*)	
E/1993/L.41	Additional information submitted by the Secretariat in connection with resolutions 1993/22 and 1993/63 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session	18	
E/1993/L.42	World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction—Colombia and Japan: draft decision	7	
E/1993/L.43 and Corr.1	Assistance to the Palestinian people—Algeria, Cuba, Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Senegal, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen: draft resolution	4 (*b*)	
E/1993/L.44	Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/L.34: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	10	
E/1993/L.45	Committee for Development Planning—Colombia: draft resolution	15	
E/1993/L.46	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-President of the Council	23	
E/1993/L.47	Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/L.46: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council	23	
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B/1993/INF/6/ Add.1	Decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed substantive session of 1993		*Idem*
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B/1993/INF/8	The world economy in 1993—an update: note by the Secretary-General	15 and 3	Agenda item 3 of the high-level segment
B/1993/NGO/1	Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	5	Organizational session for 1993
B/1993/NGO/2	Statement submitted by: International Alliance for Women—Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I); Anglican Consultative Council, Arab Lawyers Union, International Association against Torture, International Council of Jewish Women, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Federation of Methodist Women and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II); and World Alliance of Reformed Churches and World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the Roster	5	*Idem*
B/1993/NGO/3	Statement submitted by the International Cooperative Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	2	High-level segment
B/1993/NGO/4	Statement submitted by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	2 (*a*)	
B/1993/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	20	
B/1993/NGO/6	Statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	2	*Idem*
B/1993/NGO/7	Statement submitted by the International Council on Social Welfare and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	2	*Idem*
B/1993/NGO/8	Statement submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	3	*Idem*
B/1993/NGO/9	Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)	18	
B/1993/SR.1-11	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Economic and Social Council during its organizational session for 1993		The final text of the summary records is contained in the present volume
B/1993/SR.12-49	Provisional summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 1993		*Idem*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1993

Summary records of the 1st to 11th plenary meetings, held in New York from 26 January to 26 May 1993

1st meeting

Tuesday, 26 January 1993, at 10.50 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Vieri TRAXLER (Italy)
President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.1

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1993.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Election of the Bureau

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT informed the members of the Council that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidature of Mr. Juan Somavía (Chile) for the office of President of the Council for 1993.

Mr. Somavía (Chile) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Somavía (Chile) took the Chair.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, under rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. He had been informed that, as a result of consultations among the regional groups, the following candidates had been nominated: Mr. Huslid (Norway), Mr. Kouyate (Guinea), Mr. Soh (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Sliptchenko (Ukraine).

Mr. Huslid (Norway), Mr. Kouyate (Guinea), Mr. Soh (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Sliptchenko (Ukraine) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

4. The PRESIDENT said that 1993 was an important year for the Economic and Social Council because the recent decisions on its restructuring would be applied fully for the first time. At its substantive session, the Council would have to take action on the decisions adopted at UNCED. Preparations in the Council for the World Summit for Social Development would also continue. Those two items alone were indicative of the importance of the Council's work.

5. The main issue facing the Council was how it should approach the key areas of economic and social development at a time when public opinion perceived the United Nations and its principal organs as pre-eminent in those areas. The Council must ensure that the importance of its work was understood both by Governments and by world public opinion. The new international situation provided an opportunity to tackle that issue in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue, free from the old divisions which for so long had made it impossible to work together.

Organization of work

6. The PRESIDENT recalled that, with the adoption of resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, the Council had decided upon a number of measures aimed at revitalizing and improving its functioning. Further measures to that end had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/264. On the basis of the guidelines set out in those resolutions, the Council would have before it for consideration at its organizational session the provisional agenda for that session (E/1993/2 and Add.1) and a proposed programme of work (E/1993/1 and Add.1). He also drew the Council's attention to the matters requiring action at the current session listed under item 2 of the provisional agenda.

7. In conformity with the provisions of paragraph 2 (l) of Council resolution 1988/77, he intended to hold preliminary consultations with the Bureau and members of the Council on the proposed basic programme of work and other organizational matters. That procedure should enable the Council to shorten its organizational session.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

2nd meeting

Tuesday, 2 February 1993, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. SOH Byung Yong (Republic of Korea)

E/1993/SR.2

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the provisional agenda for the organizational session (E/1993/2 and Add.1 and E/1993/8).

The agenda was adopted.

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolutions I, II and III, entitled respectively "Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia", "Establishment of a Statistical Committee within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia" and "Permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia", contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1992/65/Add.1, para. 1), which the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had recommended for adoption by the Council.

3. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his delegation had supported the adoption of draft resolution I on the understanding that its sixth paragraph meant that its provisions had no financial implications additional to the budgetary provisions currently applicable.

Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted [resolutions 1993/1 to 1993/3].

4. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a number of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the relevant paragraphs of which were summarized in the report (ibid., para. 2). In conclusion, he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of regional cooperation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/202].

5. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of the question of regional cooperation under agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

6. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development expected to work in close cooperation with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Development Support and Management Services. The necessary arrangements would be made to ensure that there was a clear-cut division of tasks.

7. The current session of the Council was an important one since, in addition to the decisions which it must take on the themes for the high-level and coordination segments for 1993 and on the programme of work of the Council for the year, the Council would be called upon to establish the Commission on Sustainable Development and to elect its initial membership. He welcomed the interest shown by Governments in becoming members of the Commission, which once again underscored the firm intention of Member States to take an active part in following up the results of UNCED. He hoped that Governments seeking membership in the Commission would be represented at a high level, as that was crucial to the success of the Commission's work.

8. The Council also needed to adopt decisions on the participation of intergovernmental organizations, the European Community and non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission. The latter's work could not fail to be enhanced by close association with the numerous non-governmental organizations whose interest and involvement in UNCED had made a major contribution to the success of that Conference. The future of sustainable development could be secured only through the building of partnerships among nations, between North and South and among all members of society whose decisions shaped the economy and the environment.

9. In his report on the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (E/1993/15/Rev.1), the Secretary-General viewed the Board not only as a source of advice for himself and intergovernmental bodies on issues related to the environment and development, but also as a mechanism for building support for and an understanding of the Organization's work in that area among the constituencies and groups represented by the Board's members. The Board could therefore be seen as a crucial instrument for strengthening and facilitating the work of the Commission and the Council.

10. In his note on the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1993/14), the Secretary-General suggested 12 February as the date for the election of members of the Commission, in order to give regional groups more time to negotiate their respective lists of candidates. He also suggested that the organizational session of the Commission should be held from 1 to 3 March 1993, in order to allow time for the representatives of the States elected to the Commission to make the necessary arrangements to travel to New York. The report dealt with two possible scenarios for the first substantive session of the Commission. A number of Governments had indicated informally that they would prefer that session to be held before the regular session of the Council. If the Council were to agree, the Commission could meet from 13 to 25 June, although those dates would overlap by one week with the session of the Governing Council of UNDP.

11. In his report on the Commission's rules of procedure (E/1993/12), the Secretary-General dealt with the issue of participation in the Commission's work by intergovernmental organizations, the European Community and non-governmental organizations. His proposals on that subject closely followed the recommendations of UNCED and the guidelines provided by the General Assembly. With regard to non-governmental organizations, the Secretary-General proposed that the Council should grant Roster status to any non-governmental organization that had been accredited to UNCED and that demonstrated its continuing interest in participating in the work of the Commission. He suggested a number of steps that non-governmental organizations themselves might take to organize their work on sustainable development and their relationships both among themselves and with the Commission. Furthermore, since current arrangements governing the relationship between the Organization and non-governmental organizations in the economic and social field were 25 years old, the Secretary-General suggested that the Council might wish to undertake an overall review of those arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the United Nations, in particular through UNCED, over that period.

12. Lastly, in his report on the High-level Advisory Board, the Secretary-General proposed that a roster of experts should be established to provide technical advice to the Board, the Commission and the Council. The expertise thus made available would provide a useful pool of professional specialized knowledge to enrich the work of the Board and of intergovernmental organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 4

International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process

13. Ms. SADIK (Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund) said that General Assembly resolution 47/176 on the International Conference on Population and Development had marked an important stage in preparations for the Conference. The debate and negotiations that had preceded its adoption had highlighted the growing interest of the international community in the Conference. Several key aspects of the pre-

paratory process, however, needed to be clarified at the earliest opportunity and, as Secretary-General of the Conference, she was grateful that the Council was able to address those issues at its organizational session.

14. Preparations for the Conference had been gathering pace over the previous two years (see E/1993/13). Six expert group meetings and two regional population conferences had already been held and their reports would be disseminated shortly. Such activity at the expert and regional levels was a very important part of the preparatory process. It was also important for the full intergovernmental community to focus on the issues to be addressed by the Conference. She therefore welcomed the proposal to bring forward by one week the second session of the Preparatory Committee which, if held barely one year before the Conference, would be unable to resolve key aspects of the preparations for the Conference. In addition, the starting date originally suggested for the second session meant that the session would overlap by a full week the first substantive session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a convention on desertification, to be held at Nairobi. Since both the session of the Preparatory Committee and the desertification negotiations were of major importance to many delegations, such an overlap should be avoided. She hoped that two full weeks could be allocated for the meetings, since it was necessary to receive from delegations very clear instructions as to the required outcome of the Conference, agreement on the interrelationships between the issues being addressed, and clear guidance as to how the final documentation was to be drafted by the Secretariat.

15. Similarly, she supported the proposal that the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be scheduled for two weeks in April 1994. The Council should, however, consider carefully whether two weeks at that time would be sufficient to negotiate all aspects of the Conference's outcome and the related issue of a fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, possibly in June or early July 1994.

16. The Conference was being prepared at a time when there was a clear understanding of the role which non-governmental organizations could and should play in international activities of the type with which the Conference was concerned. Agenda 21 of UNCED, particularly its chapter on the strengthening of the role of non-governmental organizations, was an important indication of that new relationship. During UNCED, non-governmental organizations had been given the opportunity to participate fully in the work of the Preparatory Committee but had not been involved in the intergovernmental negotiating process. A similar approach should be adopted in the case of the International Conference on Population and Development in order further to strengthen cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental communities. Each had a distinct contribution to make and it was important not to confuse their roles or to see them as interchangeable.

17. General Assembly resolution 47/176 provided very clear guidance on non-governmental organizations and their involvement in the Conference. It referred, most appropriately, not only to the experience of UNCED but also to that of earlier United Nations population conferences. At both the 1974 and the 1984 population conferences, a flexible approach had been adopted for the relatively small number of non-governmental organizations involved. The interest generated by UNCED had altered the scale of non-governmental organization involvement in the 1994 Conference, however, and the subject of population was currently seen as perhaps more relevant and topical. She welcomed that development and hoped that the same spirit of cooperation and partnership which had characterized earlier population conferences and UNCED would be a feature of the Cairo Conference and its preparatory process.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions

18. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretariat (E/1993/9) and to the addendum to the provisional agenda of the Council (E/1993/2/Add.1), in which the Council was called upon to elect members to complete the term of office of the former Czechoslovakia in the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Board of UNICEF and the Governing Council of UNDP. In a letter dated 12 January 1993, the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States had informed the Secretariat that the Group had endorsed the candidature of the Czech Republic for the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Executive Board of UNICEF. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of seats to be filled, he would take it that the Council wished to declare the Czech Republic elected a member of the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Executive Board of UNICEF, for the unexpired portions of the terms of office of the former Czechoslovakia, with immediate effect.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

19. The PRESIDENT said that in the letter to which he had just referred, the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States had informed the Secretariat that the Group had endorsed the candidature of the Slovak Republic for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Governing Council of UNDP. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of seats to be filled, he would take it that the Council wished to declare the Slovak Republic elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Governing

Council of UNDP, for the unexpired portions of the terms of office of the former Czechoslovakia, with immediate effect.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council

20. The PRESIDENT drew attention to an unofficial paper prepared and circulated by the Secretariat which contained a number of draft proposals concerning the matters before the Council at the current session. The paper, which dealt only with issues upon which a consensus appeared to be emerging, would provide a useful basis for further informal consultations.

21. Mrs. CASTAÑO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/92, had recommended that the Council should consider the theme "World Summit for Social Development" at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1993. The Group of 77 believed that the Council should formally welcome that recommendation, as that would enable it to play a decisive role in the formulation of guidelines and decisions conducive to the success of the World Summit.

22. The Assembly had decided that the Summit, to be held early in 1995, should have as its objectives the enhancement of social integration, the alleviation and reduction of poverty and the expansion of productive employment. The success of the Summit would depend on the willingness of Member States and the supporting organizations to adopt the economic and political focus which those objectives required. Lack of social cohesion, poverty and unemployment were merely the outward symptoms of underlying economic and political problems. Accordingly, a global social development strategy would be viable only if it was designed to address the grave economic imbalances that currently existed and to promote appropriate political decisions in the sphere of international cooperation. The involvement of multilateral financing institutions in those decisions was also vital.

23. With regard to the coordination segment of the substantive session of 1993, the Group of 77 believed that three themes were of primary importance. The first was science and technology for development, which constituted the basis of independent development for any society. In particular, the coordination of the activities of the various United Nations bodies which promoted science and technology in developing countries should be considered. The Council could thus make a significant contribution to enhancing the Organization's efficiency in that area. Secondly, the Group of 77 drew attention to the need for humanitarian assistance to be oriented towards rehabilitation and reconstruction. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182, humanitarian assistance should not be limited to emergency programmes, but should be integrated effectively into development strategies. Lastly, the Group believed that efforts by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to combat diarrhoeal diseases and malaria, which affected millions of people in the developing world, required better coordination.

24. With regard to the operational activities segment, the Group of 77 believed that it should be devoted to the follow-up of General Assembly resolution 47/199. That resolution gave the Council a broad mandate to resolve major issues arising from the triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system. Accordingly, it did not seem appropriate to select specific topics for that segment.

25. The Group of 77 would participate constructively in the adoption of decisions relating to preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In particular, the Group would seek to establish a timely calendar for the remaining meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. It would also seek to ensure that the rules governing the participation of non-governmental organizations enabled those organizations which were relevant to the objectives of the Conference to make a substantial contribution. Such rules should show due respect for the decision-making authority of Governments.

26. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that the theme "World Summit for Social Development" should, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92, be taken up at the high-level segment. The strengthening of coordination, particularly with regard to emergency assistance, warranted further discussion. The operational activities segment should be devote[illegible] the implementation of General Assembly resolution 4[illegible] Two additional themes should also be conside[illegible] namely, the implications for the United Nations development system of the shift to national capacity-building, and the question of the newly independent States.

27. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to ensure that the Summit was devoted to social development and reform and that it did not address issues which could be dealt with in other forums. The high-level segment would be the first opportunity to define the Summit's focus. In the coordination segment, the Council must seek to provide policy guidance and to ensure that the topics which it selected were appropriate for consideration by the General Assembly. For those reasons, his delegation had proposed theme (i) of draft decision II, as contained in the unofficial paper, which dealt with the coordination of United Nations activities in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. His country had been instrumental in the establishment, some years earlier, of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and be-

lieved that it would be appropriate for the Council to review the achievements made and the problems encountered by the Programme. Another important question was that of coordination among the various human rights mechanisms, special rapporteurs, and so on.

28. Mr. KAARIA (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, agreed that the high-level segment should focus on the World Summit and that the coordination of humanitarian assistance should be discussed during the coordination segment.

29. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction the consensus emerging with regard to the major theme of the high-level segment. While joining that consensus, his delegation proposed that the theme should be reformulated as follows: "The role of the United Nations in promoting social development, in particular in the context of the World Summit for Social Development". With regard to the consultation segment, his delegation hoped that the previous year's experience, which had been fairly successful, would be taken into account. Several of the themes proposed in draft decision II of the unofficial paper were of interest to his delegation, especially themes (i), (ii) and (iii).

30. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that while his delegation also supported the major theme proposed for the high-level segment, it believed that the Council must address the substantive aspects of social development and not just preparations for the Summit. Accordingly, Japan supported the Russian proposal to reformulate the theme. With regard to the coordination segment, his delegation believed that narcotic drugs and humanitarian assistance were appropriate themes, as they involved coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system. His delegation was also prepared to accept theme (ii), entitled "Science and technology for development", in view of the interest expressed by developing countries.

31. Mrs. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that her delegation agreed with the United States of America that the high-level segment should not become bogged down in organizational details; the Russian proposal could help to avoid that. With regard to the coordination segment, her delegation supported theme (iii), entitled "Coordination of the humanitarian assistance programme of the United Nations, including its efforts for reconstruction, rebuilding and development".

32. Mrs. FENG Cui (China) said that her delegation, like the majority of Council members, believed that the World Summit should be the major theme of the high-level segment. At the same time, China believed that, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 47/92, the questions of social integration, poverty alleviation and productive employment should be closely linked to the question of social development and that concrete action should be taken. With regard to the coordination segment, China supported the proposal by the Group of 77 concerning the theme of science and technology. It also agreed that humanitarian assistance should be one of the themes considered, with the emphasis placed on reconstruction.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

3rd meeting

Friday, 12 February 1993, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. SOH Byung Yong (Republic of Korea)

E/1993/SR.3

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau (*concluded**)

1. The PRESIDENT said that it had been agreed, in accordance with the established practice of rotation in the distribution of functions among the Vice-Presidents of the Council, that Mr. Huslid (Norway) would chair the First (Economic) Committee, that Mr. Soh (Republic of Korea) would chair the Second (Social) Committee, and that Mr. Kouyate (Guinea) and Mr. Sliptchenko (Ukraine) would coordinate informal consultations and perform other tasks as required by the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*)

2. The PRESIDENT said that, with the exception of the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/L.10/Rev.1, relating to the International Conference on

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* Resumed from the 1st meeting.

Population and Development, none of the draft proposals before the Council had programme budget implications.

3. At the request of the Economic Commission for Africa, he wished to suggest that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council, having been advised by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa that the Government of Gabon, by a note verbale dated 3 February 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Gabon accredited to the Commission, has extended an invitation to the Commission to hold its next session in Libreville, decides that the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission shall be held in Libreville from 19 to 22 April 1993."

It was so decided [decision 1993/203].

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council (*continued*)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider a number of draft proposals regarding its basic programme of work (E/1993/1 and Add.1 and E/1993/7), beginning with draft decisions I-VII contained in document E/1993/L.9.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, following informal consultations, draft decision I, entitled "High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1993", had been replaced by draft decision E/1993/L.12.

6. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the phrase "attaining their objectives" in paragraph 2 of the new draft decision should read "attaining the objectives".

Draft decision E/1993/L.12, as amended, was adopted [decision 1993/204].

7. The PRESIDENT said that, following informal consultations, draft decision II, entitled "Coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1993", had been replaced by draft decision E/1993/L.13, the first sentence of which had been revised to read:

> "The Economic and Social Council, reaffirming the provisions of section III, paragraphs (*a*) to (*e*) of its decision 1992/217, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, decided:"

Draft decision E/1993/L.13, as orally revised, was adopted [decision 1993/205].

8. The PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that the Council was requesting the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to examine the issue of coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology, and, should the Commission take a decision on the matter, to submit a report thereon to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its 1994 organizational session.

9. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of consultations, he wished to suggest that paragraph 1 of draft decision III, entitled "Proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1993 (28 June-30 July 1993)" should read:

> ". . .
>
> "2. World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development.
>
> ". . ."

10. He further suggested that paragraph 2 as proposed for the other segments should read:

> ". . .
>
> "2. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:
>
> "(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development;
>
> "(*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventative action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera.
>
> ". . ."

11. Consequential adjustments would be required in the portion of the draft decision dealing with the allocation of items if those revisions were adopted.

Draft decision III, as orally revised, was adopted [decision 1993/206].

12. The PRESIDENT referring to draft decision IV, entitled "Establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development", drew attention to document E/1993/L.9/Add.1, containing an additional subparagraph for incorporation into the draft decision.

Draft decision IV, as revised, was adopted [decision 1993/207].

13. The PRESIDENT referred to draft decision V, entitled "Consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies", containing sections A to C.

Draft decision V, section A, was adopted [decision 1993/208].

14. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of the informal consultations held, the following phrase should be added to the beginning of section B:

> "Subject to the outcome of discussions to be held at the resumed forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/150,"

Draft decision V, section B, as orally revised, was adopted [decision 1993/208].

Draft decision V, section C, was adopted [decision 1993/208].

15. The PRESIDENT referred to draft decisions VI and VII, entitled respectively "World Decade for Cultural Development" and "Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1994".

Draft decisions VI and VII were adopted [decisions 1993/209 and 1993/210].

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions entitled "United Nations common system" (E/1993/L.14) and "Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health" (E/1993/L.16).

The draft decisions were adopted [decisions 1993/211 and 1993/212].

17. The PRESIDENT then referred to a draft decision entitled "Interregional cooperation (E/1993/L.17).

18. Mrs. FENG Cui (China) proposed that the draft decision should be amended to read:

> "The Economic and Social Council requests the regional commissions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191, to examine at their forthcoming sessions the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and submit reports with their conclusions related to such a review and their plans to implement Agenda 21 to the Economic and Social Council. Such reports should also be made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its consideration in 1993 or, at the latest, in 1994."

The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted [decision 1993/213].

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled "Review of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations" (E/1993/L.18).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/214].

AGENDA ITEM 4

International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process (*concluded*)

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/1993/L.10/Rev.1, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

21. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the programme budget implications of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference had been submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 in document E/1991/47/Add.1 and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in document A/C.5/46/34. No additional requirements for the second session of the Preparatory Committee had been envisaged at that time, on the understanding that the requirements for the session would be met from the resources allocated for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission.

22. Should the Council decide to modify the proposed timing and duration of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, additional meetings servicing requirements, estimated on a full-cost basis at $33,300, would be necessary. That estimate was based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity provided for under the relevant section of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance could be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992-1993. In accordance with established practice, provisions had been made in the current programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of its preparation, but for meetings or extensions that might be authorized subsequently, based on the pattern of the previous five years. On that basis, it was estimated that no additional resources would be required from the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the resolution by the Council.

23. As for the requirements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the requirements for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, if the latter was postponed to 1994, those requirements would be considered in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 within the overall level of resources indicated in General Assembly resolution 47/213.

Draft resolution E/1993/L.10/Rev.1 was adopted [resolution 1993/4].

24. Mr. SORENSON (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, welcomed the consensus reached on the draft resolution, which brought forward the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development and spelt out the modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process. All relevant and competent local, national and international non-governmental organizations should have a role in the process.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (*continued*)

25. The PRESIDENT, referring to the draft decision entitled "Procedural arrangements for the Commission on Sustainable Development" (E/1993/L.11), indicated that it had no programme budget implications.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/215].

26. The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the adoption of the draft decision, it was his understanding that appropriate procedural arrangements must be made to approve the inclusion of non-governmental organizations on the roster prior to the substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

27. The PRESIDENT, referring to the draft decision entitled "High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development" (E/1993/L.15) indicated that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/216].

28. The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the adoption of draft decision E/1993/L.11, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council would have to be amended and the arrangements for the participation of the European Community and other regional or subregional economic integration organizations in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development would have to be spelt out.

29. Following a procedural discussion in which Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico), Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), Mr. MARKS (United States of America), Mr. MONGBE (Benin), Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) and Mr. SETH (India) took part, the PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting should be suspended for consultations on the matter.

The meeting was suspended at 12.35 p.m. and resumed at 1.10 p.m.

30. The PRESIDENT announced that in the course of the informal consultations it had been determined that the Council would need more time to consider the matters to which he had referred. He therefore intended to defer consideration of those questions until the Secretariat could make the relevant proposals available in written form.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

31. The PRESIDENT, referring to the list of vacancies (see E/1993/2, para. 19, E/1993/2/Add.1) and to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/3), invited Council members to hold elections, postponed from previous sessions, to subsidiary bodies of the Council.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

32. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of African States that the candidatures of Lesotho and Madagascar had been endorsed for the two vacancies to be filled by that Group for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Lesotho and Madagascar by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

33. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had also been informed that Azerbaijan had presented its candidature for the remaining vacancy from the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Azerbaijan by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

34. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States that the candidature of Malaysia had been endorsed for one of the two vacancies to be filled by that Group for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1995. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Malaysia by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

35. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States that the candidature of Lebanon had been endorsed for the vacancy to be filled by that Group for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Lebanon by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

36. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States that the candidatures of Malaysia and Viet Nam had been endorsed for the two vacancies to be filled by that Group for a term beginning on the date of election. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Malaysia and Viet Nam by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

37. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had also been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States that Azerbaijan had been endorsed to fill the remaining vacancy from that Group for a term beginning on the date of election. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Azerbaijan by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

38. Mrs. MAIKARFI (Observer for the Niger) said that the Group of African States had endorsed Burundi, the Niger, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania to fill four of its eight vacancies.

39. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of candidates endorsed by the Group of African States was fewer than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Burundi, the Niger, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

40. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had received the names of nine additional experts (E/1993/17), nominated by their Governments, to fill vacancies remaining from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Eastern European States. The Council was also called upon to elect replacements for two candidates from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States who were unable to take up their functions (E/1993/17/Add.1). Since the number of candidates was less than or equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Guillermo Jorge Cano (Argentina), Mr. Marek Hoffmann (Poland), Sheik Ibrahim bin Sheik Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Khan (Pakistan), Mr. Godfrey L.Z. Leshange (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Patrick Maselino (Zambia), Mr. Thomas P.S. Mpofu (Zimbabwe), Mr. Erastus Kabutu Mwongera (Kenya), Mr. Dossou Barthélémy Otchoun (Benin), Mr. Luiz Fernando Soares de Assis (Brazil) and Mr. Natarayan Suryanarayanan (India).

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

41. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council was called upon to nominate one member of the World Food Council for election by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The Secretariat had been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States that India had been endorsed to fill the vacancy for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1995. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate India by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

42. The PRESIDENT said that elections to fill any remaining vacancies on subsidiary bodies of the Council would be postponed to the resumed organizational session scheduled for April 1993.

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

43. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1993/3, containing the names of the representatives of the functional commissions which had been submitted for confirmation by the Council since the close of the organizational session for 1992. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm those nominations.

It was so decided [decision 1993/201].

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

4th meeting

Tuesday, 16 February 1993, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.4

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of agenda item 6, and recalled that it was customary practice for the terms of office of newly elected members to be staggered for the initial period in order to avoid the entire membership of a body retiring at the same time. It would therefore be necessary to draw lots for the initial term of membership for elected members once all vacancies had been filled. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the members of the Council agreed to that procedure.

It was so decided.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect the 53 members of its new functional commission, the Commission on Sustainable Development, which it had decided to establish by its decision 1993/207. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, the term of office of the newly elected members would begin on the date of election. Information regarding the election, including the distribution of seats, was contained in document E/1993/L.19.

3. Since the number of candidates for the Group of Eastern European States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, he would take it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Russian Federation were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development by acclamation [decision 1993/201].

4. The PRESIDENT said that, since there were more candidates from the other groups than there were vacancies for those groups, members from each regional group would be elected by separate secret ballots.

5. As the Secretariat had not received the list of candidates for the Group of African States, he invited the observer for the Niger, in her capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States, to read out the names of the candidates for the 13 vacancies for that group.

6. Mrs. MAIKARFI (Observer for the Niger), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that consultations on elections to the Commission on Sustainable Development had been held since the Earth Summit in Rio, which demonstrated the importance the Group attached to the Commission. There were 33 candidates: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the States of the southern African subregion had nominated two countries—Malawi and Namibia—and the other countries of the subregion—Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe—had withdrawn their candidatures. That left 11 seats to be filled by the Group of African States.

7. Mr. LOPES da ROSA (Observer for Guinea-Bissau) said that, in a spirit of solidarity and to promote unity, his delegation would withdraw its candidature.

8. Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI (Zaire) commended Guinea-Bissau for its spirit of solidarity and said that, like the States of the southern African subregion, the Group of African States as a whole supported the nomination of Malawi and Namibia. Those countries should therefore be considered elected by acclamation, and the Council would have to elect 11 members by secret ballot to fill the remaining vacancies.

9. The PRESIDENT said that four countries had withdrawn their candidatures, and that the Group of African States supported the nomination of Malawi and Namibia. Although such a procedure was not customary practice, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Malawi and Namibia by acclamation, and to elect 11 members by secret ballot to fill the remaining vacancies.

Malawi and Namibia were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development by acclamation [decision 1993/201].

10. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Observer for Burundi) wished to clarify one point: while the Group of African States had supported the nomination of two States from southern Africa, the remaining 11 vacancies for the Group of African States should be distributed equally among the four other subregions.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Grabowski (Poland) and Mr. Sefa Akay (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 53

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of valid ballots: 53

Abstentions: 0

Number of members voting: 53

Required majority: 27

Number of votes obtained:

Morocco	46
Tunisia	45
Benin	43
Nigeria	43
Egypt	39
Gabon	38
Burkina Faso	36
Madagascar	33
Algeria	30
Guinea	29
Angola	21
Ghana	21
Mauritania	18
Zaire	18
Kenya	17
United Republic of Tanzania	17
Uganda	16
Côte d'Ivoire	12
Burundi	10
Senegal	8
Seychelles	8
Sierra Leone	8
Cameroon	6
Djibouti	6
Mali	4
Congo	3
Niger	1

Having obtained the required majority, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development [decision 1993/201].

11. Mrs. MAIKARFI (Observer for the Niger) said that, although her delegation had not been a candidate, she wished to thank the delegation that had voted for it.

12. The PRESIDENT said that, since Angola and Ghana had not obtained the required majority, it would be necessary to hold a second secret ballot to fill the last vacancy. That vote would be held at the next meeting.

13. The PRESIDENT said that there were 13 vacancies to fill for the Group of Western European and other States and there were 14 candidates: Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Seth (India) and Mr. Shaukat (Observer for Pakistan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 53

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of valid ballots: 53

Abstentions: 0

Number of members voting: 53

Required majority: 27

Number of votes obtained:

France	53
Norway	53
Austria	52
Germany	52
Canada	51
Australia	49
Belgium	49
Italy	47
Iceland	46
United Kingdom	45
United States of America	45
Netherlands	43
Turkey	41
Portugal	34
Malta	2
Spain	2
Switzerland	2

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development [decision 1993/201].

14. The PRESIDENT said that there were 11 vacancies for the Group of Asian States and there were 14 candidates: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tellier (Canada) and Mr. Brun (Denmark) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

15. The PRESIDENT said that the results of the vote would be announced at the next meeting.

16. The PRESIDENT said that there were 10 vacancies for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and there were 14 candidates: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela.

17. Mr. MELENDEZ BARAHONA (Observer for El Salvador) withdrew his country's candidature.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wrba (Austria) and Mr. Ndiaye (Gabon) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

18. The PRESIDENT said that the results of the vote would be announced at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

5th meeting

Tuesday, 16 February 1993, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.5

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT announced the results of the vote to elect 11 members from the Group of Asian States:

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
India	51
Malaysia	51
China	50
Japan	50
Singapore	49
Republic of Korea	47
Philippines	46
Sri Lanka	45
Pakistan	43
Indonesia	42
Vanuatu	37
Kuwait	27
Saudi Arabia	16
Jordan	14

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development [decision 1993/201].

2. The PRESIDENT announced the results of the vote to elect 10 members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States:

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Mexico	51
Chile	49
Colombia	49
Brazil	47
Cuba	47
Venezuela	47
Barbados	44
Antigua and Barbuda	42
Uruguay	38
Bolivia	36
Costa Rica	25
Guyana	24
Nicaragua	24
Peru	1

Having obtained the required majority, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development [decision 1993/201].

3. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council would proceed to hold a restricted ballot between Angola and Ghana, the two candidates of the Group of African States that had received the same number of votes.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh) and Mr. Murphy (Ireland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	52
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	52
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Angola	27
Ghana	25

Having obtained the required majority, Angola was elected a member of the Commission on Sustainable Development [decision 1993/201].

4. The PRESIDENT, announcing the results of the drawing of lots among the 13 elected members of the Group of African States, said that the first group of five countries—Burkina Faso, Gabon, Malawi, Namibia and Tunisia—would serve for a term of three years; the second group of four countries—Algeria, Benin, Egypt and Nigeria—for a term of two years; and the third group of four countries—Angola, Guinea, Madagascar and Morocco—for a term of one year.

5. The PRESIDENT, announcing the results of the drawing of lots among the 11 elected members of the Group of Asian States, said that the first group of four countries—China, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea—would serve for a term of three years; the second group of four countries—the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu—for a term of two years; and the third group of three countries—India, Japan and Malaysia—for a term of one year.

6. The PRESIDENT, announcing the results of the drawing of lots among the six elected members of the Group of Eastern European States, said that the first group of two States—the Russian Federation and Poland—would serve for a term of three years; the second group of two States—the Czech Republic and Hungary—for a term of two years; and the third group of States—Bulgaria and Belarus—for a term of one year.

7. The PRESIDENT, announcing the results of the drawing of lots among the 10 elected members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the first group of four countries—Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay—would serve for a term of three years; the second group of three countries—Brazil, Colombia and Cuba—for a term of two years; and the third group of three countries—Barbados, Mexico and Venezuela—for a term of one year.

8. The PRESIDENT, announcing the results of the drawing of lots among the 13 elected members of the Group of Western European and other States, said that the first group of five countries—Belgium, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands and Turkey—would serve for a term of three years; the second group of four countries—Australia, Austria, France and Norway—for a term of two years; and the third group of four countries—Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America—for a term of one year.

9. Mrs. CASTAÑO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group attached particular importance to the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had been formally established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. The Group would work closely with the representatives

who had been appointed to participate in the work of the Commission.

10. The Group of 77 wished to express its very strong hope that one of its members would be the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, especially in the light of the Group's active and constructive participation in the entire process that had resulted in establishment of the Commission. She hoped that the commitment that had also been demonstrated by the industrialized countries would be reflected in their willingness to work under a Chairman from a country of the South.

11. The PRESIDENT said that the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council would resume in April 1993.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

6th meeting

Tuesday, 6 April 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.6

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (*continued**)

1. The PRESIDENT said that one of the tasks of the session was to fill the vacancies on the Commission, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1993/201.

2. In that respect, the Secretariat had been informed by the President of the Group of African States that the Group had endorsed the candidatures of Cape Verde, the Congo, Malawi and Nigeria for the four vacancies to be filled by that Group, for a term beginning on the date of election. If there were no other candidatures, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Cape Verde, the Congo, Malawi and Nigeria by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

3. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had also been informed by the President of the Group of Western European and other States that that Group had endorsed the candidatures of Denmark and Malta for two of the six vacancies to be filled by that Group, for a term beginning on the date of election. If there were no other candidatures, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Denmark and Malta by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

4. Mr. MINAGAWA (Japan) said he had understood that the terms of the members would be determined by lot; he asked why that had not been done.

5. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) explained that lots were not drawn until all the members of the Commission had been elected. After the elections that had just taken place, there were still four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States. The procedure in question would be applied as soon as the membership of the Commission was complete.

Suspension of the organizational session for 1993

6. The PRESIDENT declared the organizational session for 1993 suspended.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

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* Resumed from the 3rd meeting.

Resumed organizational session for 1993

7th meeting

Thursday, 29 April 1993, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)
later: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.7

Announcement by the President

1. The PRESIDENT said he had just been informed that the General Assembly had adopted a resolution deciding that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) would not be permitted to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

3. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following eight countries were candidates: Botswana, Kenya and Zambia for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; Russian Federation for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and, the Netherlands having withdrawn its candidature, France, Germany and Spain for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

4. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the list of candidates read out.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

POPULATION COMMISSION

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

6. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following eight countries were candidates: Tunisia for one of the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; China and India for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Russian Federation for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Jamaica and Mexico for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

7. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the list of candidates read out and to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 15 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

9. Mr. MELENDEZ BARAHONA (Observer for El Salvador) said that his country had been a candidate for the Commission on Human Rights but in a spirit of solidarity had decided to withdraw in favour of Nicaragua. It reserved the right to resubmit its candidature in 1994.

10. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 19 countries were candidates: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Mauritania for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; China, Indonesia and Japan for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States, Qatar having withdrawn its candidature; Czech Republic and Hungary for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Australia, Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Turkey for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

11. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates from the Group of African States and the Group of Asian States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Eastern European States, three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and four members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Cordeiro (Angola) and Ms. Murugesan (India) acted as tellers.

Mr. Huslid (Norway), Vice-President took the Chair.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 53
Number of invalid ballots: 0
Number of valid ballots: 53
Abstentions: 0
Number of members voting: 53
Required majority: 27
Number of votes obtained:

(a) *Eastern European States*

Hungary	35
Czech Republic	15

(b) *Latin American and Caribbean States*

Ecuador	40
Peru	40
Venezuela	38
Nicaragua	36

(c) *Western European and other States*

Germany	43
Italy	38
Austria	35
Australia	33
Spain	31
Turkey	22
Ireland	1
Sweden	1

Having obtained the required majority, and in the case of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States the largest number of votes, Australia, Austria, Ecuador, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Peru and Venezuela were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights [decision 1993/218].

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

13. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 13 members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

14. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 12 countries were candidates: Guinea, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Namibia for the five vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; Cyprus, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia and Republic of Korea for the five vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; and Bahamas, Costa Rica and Ecuador for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

15. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the list of candidates read out and to postpone the election of one member from the Group of African States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

17. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 22 candidates had been proposed by the regional groups: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Liberia for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; China, Japan, Lebanon and Sri Lanka for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Bahamas, Colombia, Mexico and Paraguay for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Australia, Belgium, Finland, Spain and

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the five vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

18. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Sherman-Peter (Bahamas) and Mrs. Ogunleye (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Eastern European States	
Russian Federation	43
Romania	40
Ukraine	30
Hungary	22
Bulgaria	19

Having obtained the required majority, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [decision 1993/218].

COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

21. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 22 candidates had been proposed by the regional groups: Congo, Malawi, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire for the eight vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Hungary and Russian Federation for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Colombia and Cuba for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Finland and Germany for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

22. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot four members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Reine (Madagascar) and Mr. Felton (United Kingdom) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Malaysia	51
Japan	46
Sri Lanka	45
Pakistan	41
Saudi Arabia	21
India	1

Having obtained the required majority, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [decision 1993/218].

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

8th meeting

Thursday, 29 April 1993, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.8

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (*concluded**)

1. The PRESIDENT, referring to the election of representatives on the functional commissions (E/1993/L.1/Add.1), invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

2. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Burundi, Guinea, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were endorsed candidates, and Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Morocco were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by African States. India, Japan and Malaysia were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States. Belarus and Bulgaria were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States. Barbados, Mexico and Venezuela were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States. Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

3. Mr. BIZIMANA (Observer for Rwanda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that they endorsed the candidatures of Burundi, Guinea, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

4. Mr. ADALA (Observer for Kenya) said that Kenya, as the country where the headquarters of UNEP were located, was pleased to have been proposed as a candidate. However, for the sake of regional unity, it had decided to withdraw its candidature.

5. Mr. AWOONOR (Observer for Ghana) said that Ghana would withdraw its candidature for the sake of regional solidarity.

6. Mr. RAKOTONIAINA (Madagascar) said that Madagascar, which had been elected to the Commission on Sustainable Development for one year in February, had wished to be a member of the Commission for three years and had therefore submitted its candidature. However, it would withdraw it in favour of the candidates proposed by the Group of African States.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Western European and other States and the Group of Eastern European States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect four members from the Group of African States by secret ballot, since there were more candidates than vacancies.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Rotheiser (Austria) and Mr. Wong Xiaolong (China) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
United Republic of Tanzania	40
Morocco	38
Guinea	36
Uganda	35
Ethiopia	31
Burundi	27
Angola	1
Ghana	1

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* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

Having obtained the required majority, Guinea, Morocco, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1994 [decision 1993/218].

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

9. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.3), invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

10. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Zambia was the only candidate for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were the only two candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria and the Czech Republic were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium and Italy were the only candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

11. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by each Group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled by those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidates proposed by those Groups, and postpone to a later stage the election of three members from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

12. The PRESIDENT said that, since there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1995, or for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1993—elections for which had been postponed from previous sessions—he would take it that the Council wished to postpone the elections until a later stage.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

13. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.4), invited the Council to elect 18 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

14. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia were candidates for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Lebanon and Thailand were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Russian Federation was a candidate for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Brazil and Mexico were the only candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey were candidates for the six vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

15. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each Group was equal to, and in the case of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, less than, the number of vacancies in those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the States whose names had just been read out, and to postpone until a later stage the election of a member of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

16. The PRESIDENT said that, since there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993, he would take it that the Council wished to postpone the election until a later stage.

It was so decided.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

17. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/19 and Add.1), invited the Council to appoint three members of the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancies that would arise on 30 July 1993 upon the expiration of the terms of three members.

18. The Board of Trustees was composed of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the fact that the Institute and its work were funded from voluntary contributions and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board served in their individual capacities for a term of three years and were eligible for reappointment by the Council for one further term.

19. Since there was only one candidate for the single vacancy to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States, he would take it that the Council wished to elect her by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

20. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States and

the Group of Asian States was greater than the number of vacancies to be filled, he would invite the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Barac (Romania) and Ms. Nicolaisen (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
African States	
Noëlie Kangoye (Burkina Faso)	41
Meenakshi Seetulsingh (Mauritius)	7
Mamolete Pitso (Lesotho)	5
Asian States	
Amara Pongsapich (Thailand)	27
Sonia Ibrahim Atiyah (Lebanon)	25

Having obtained the required majority, Mrs. Noëlie Kangoye (Observer for Burkina Faso) and Mrs. Amara Pongsapich (Observer for Thailand) were elected members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, representing the Group of African States and the Group of Asian States, respectively, for a term beginning on 30 June 1993 [decision 1993/218].

Committee for Programme and Coordination

21. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.5), said that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Council was required to nominate 20 members for election by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee that would occur on 31 December 1993. The term was three years beginning on 1 January 1994.

22. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Cameroon, the Comoros, the Congo and Senegal were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and Pakistan were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Belarus Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago were candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were candidates for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

23. The PRESIDENT noted that the number of candidates from the Eastern European States was greater than the number of vacancies to be filled by that Group and recalled that, in similar situations in the past, the Council had decided to nominate all the candidates from each Group, and to invite the General Assembly to elect the required number of members for each Group. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate all the candidates for election by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

World Food Council

24. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/12993/L.6), said that, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council was required to nominate 12 members for election by the Assembly at its forty-eighth session to fill the vacancies in the World Food Council that would occur on 31 December 1993. The term was three years, beginning on 1 January 1994.

25. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that Liberia, Malawi and the Sudan were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, China and Pakistan were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; there were no candidates for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil and Mexico were candidates for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Turkey and the United States of America were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from each Group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled from the Groups, in accordance with the Council's past practice in similar situations, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to nominate all the candidates from the Groups for the General Assembly to elect the required number of members for each Group.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

Commission for Science and Technology for Development (*concluded**)

27. The PRESIDENT said that elections to fill vacancies from the Group of Western European and other States had been postponed from previous sessions. The term would begin on the date of the election. The Secre-

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* Resumed from the 6th meeting.

tariat had been informed that the Group had endorsed the candidature of Ireland. Since there were no other candidates, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Ireland to the Commission and to postpone to a later date the election of three members of the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

28. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of members of the Council to document E/1993/3/Add.1, which contained the names of the representatives of the functional commissions submitted subsequent to the suspension of the organizational session for confirmation by the Council. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the candidates endorsed in that document.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

29. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (*continued**)

30. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session (E/1993/25). In chapter I, section A, of the report, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session and provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission". The draft decision had no implications whatsoever for the programme budget. He would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided [decision 1993/217].

31. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council), referring to the decision entitled "Issues relating to the future work of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section C, paragraph 3 of the report of the Commission, said that, in accordance with the decision, the Commission at its future sessions would hold two meetings simultaneously which would require interpretation. If the Council endorsed that decision and it was implemented during the first substantive session in 1993, a total of $87,300 would be required. That estimate was based on the assumption that the cost of the required conference services would not be met from current allocations under the programme budget. The established practice suggested that the proposed decision would not require additional resources under section 41 of the programme budget for the 1992-1993 biennium.

32. The PRESIDENT said that he further understood that it had been agreed that the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development was composed of a Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom would also serve as Rapporteur. He would take it that the Council wished to adopt that decision.

It was so decided [decision 1993/219].

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (E/1993/15/Rev.1).

34. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, considered that it was an opportune time to reaffirm the general principle established in General Assembly resolution 47/191 that the main task of the High-level Advisory Board was to provide expert advice to the Secretary-General; it was only through him, or under his responsibility and with his approval that the advice of the Board could be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Council and the General Assembly. The Board should limit itself to providing advice to the Secretary-General, who had responsibility for formulating proposals and recommendations to intergovernmental bodies.

35. In addition, the report suggested the possibility that, at the Commission's request, members of the Board could participate in meetings of the Commission, particularly in its high-level meetings. More clarification on the scope of that proposal was needed in order to facilitate consideration of the question.

36. The observations made by the Board should be incorporated in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General and should not be transmitted as annexes to or informative notes in the reports. In that way, intergovernmental bodies could focus their attention on the consideration of unified proposals rather than dispersed documents.

37. The Group of 77 and China wished emphatically to express their complete disagreement with any proposal aimed at subsuming the functions of the Committee for Development Planning under those of the High-level Advisory Board. In fact, the functions of the Board were limited to matters of sustainable development, while the functions of the Committee were broader and permitted direct interaction with intergovernmental bodies, and in particular with the Economic and Social Council.

38. The Board was a body whose only function was to provide advice to the Secretary-General. Consequently, if the proposal was based on the assumption that the Committee for Development Planning would be abolished, for the reasons which he had just given, the situation would have to be reassessed.

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* Resumed from the 3rd meeting.

39. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that the European Community had carefully considered the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the item now before the Council. Briefly reviewing the draft resolution, which aimed at ensuring the efficient implementation of the proposals, he noted that the Community considered that the Board should assume the functions of the Committee for Development Planning, in addition to its own functions, and that, in the discharge of its responsibility, it should take into account the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Moreover, it recommended that members of the Board should be elected on the basis of the same criteria applied to members of the Committee for Development Planning and that their term should be for five years.

40. Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that she valued the contribution which the High-level Advisory Board could make to the work of the Secretary-General, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and to other relevant intergovernmental bodies. She supported, in particular, the proposed composition of the Board, which would encompass various disciplines related to environment and development. She was confident that institutional links would be established between the Board and the Commission on Sustainable Development, which could include a participatory role.

41. As in the case of the Advisory Board, the roster of experts should reflect a broad representation which included not only scientists and technicians, but also policy experts and specialists representing various groups. Lastly, the report of the Secretary-General did not specify who could request the preparation of studies and reports by the experts for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development or by the Economic and Social Council. It clearly stated that the Commission on Sustainable Development could request the experts to prepare such reports as were necessary to provide analytical support for the review of the issues raised by the Commission in Agenda 21.

42. Mr. BABA (Observer for Uganda) said that he supported the comments made by the delegate of Colombia, particularly with regard to paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report. It was surprising that the Committee for Development Planning, which had been established by the Economic and Social Council, could be subsumed by the Board, which had been created by the Commission and which was a subsidiary body of the Council. The question should be considered very carefully before a decision was taken.

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that the chairmen and coordinators of the regional groups should meet in order to determine if there were any bases for agreement on a consensus solution and that they should report to the President on the matter.

44. With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, the great number of replies received to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretary-General had prevented the Secretariat from preparing a document on the subject in time. Consequently, it would be necessary to have another meeting during the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council to consider the list of non-governmental organizations which could participate in the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

9th meeting

Friday, 30 April 1993, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.9

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.7), invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council to be held in February 1994.

2. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 18 countries were candidates: Botswana, Morocco and Sierra Leone for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; upon the withdrawal of Indonesia and Lebanon, China, Papua

New Guinea and Philippines for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Russian Federation for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Cuba, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America for the six vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States.

3. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Eastern European States corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

4. The PRESIDENT said that, since there were more candidates from the Group of Latin American States and the Group of Western European and other States than there were vacancies, the Council would elect three members from the Latin American and Caribbean States and six members from the Western European and other States by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. D'Almeida (Togo) and Mr. Motsyk (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Latin American and Caribbean States	
Trinidad and Tobago	50
Cuba	44
Uruguay	36
El Salvador	23
Panama	1
Western European and other States	
Japan	49
Italy	47
Denmark	46
United Kingdom	46
Austria	40
United States of America	39
Ireland	38

Having obtained the required majority, and in the case of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States the largest number of votes, Austria, Cuba, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme [decision 1993/218].

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

5. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.2), invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994.

6. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the Group of African States had endorsed Ghana and Burkina Faso for two vacancies. Upon the withdrawal of the Philippines, India, Indonesia and Lebanon were candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States. The Group of Eastern European States had endorsed Poland and Romania for two vacancies; the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Suriname for one vacancy; and the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed Finland and Switzerland for two vacancies.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the list of candidates read out.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

8. The PRESIDENT, referring to a note by the Secretary-General (E/1993/L.8), invited the Council to elect seven members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1993.

9. Ms. STRUYVENBERG (Secretary of the Council) said that the following countries were candidates: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from Group A; Indonesia and Pakistan from Group B; El Salvador from Group C; and Belgium, Finland and Japan from Group D.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates proposed was equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the list of candidates read out.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council (*concluded**)

11. The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had held informal consultations in preparation for the Council's substantive session to be held at Geneva. As a result of those consultations, he stressed that the representation during the high-level segment should be at the ministerial level. The Bureau had also decided that the coordination segment of the forthcoming session would culminate in the issuing of agreed conclusions. Consultations would be held at Headquarters in preparation for the substantive session. Humanitarian assistance and malaria had been suggested as topics for the coordination segment. During the current period of transition, when the future structure of the Economic and Social Council remained unclear, the Bureau had also suggested that the chairmen of the principal commissions of the Council should be invited to attend the summer session as observers.

12. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), supported by Mr. DUGAN (United States of America), said he was concerned that the proposed consultations on the coordination segment might conflict with the session of the UNDP Governing Council.

13. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said that the coordination segment was intended for the purpose of detecting problems and making recommendations. Potential problems could be identified in the context of the preparatory process, but recommendations should not be made before the session itself.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

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* Resumed from the 3rd meeting.

10th meeting

Friday, 30 April 1993, at 6.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.10

AGENDA ITEM 5

Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (*continued**)

1. The PRESIDENT, having taken into consideration the results of the discussion, proposed that examination of the subject on which the Council would meet again as soon as possible should be postponed.

It was so decided.

2. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed the hope that a final summary would include the various opinions stated during the informal consultations by the 129 countries representing the Group of 77 and China which had unequivocally reaffirmed the decision that the Committee for Development Planning should continue to carry out its responsibilities and convene its twenty-ninth session as usual.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*continued*)

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (*continued*)

3. The PRESIDENT informed the Council of a technical error which had occurred during the election of the members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund held at the previous meeting. In fact, the post which was rotated among the regional groups every three years had been assigned to the Group of Eastern European States the previous year and, consequently, only one candidate from that Group and three from the Group of Western European and other States should have been elected. For that reason, he proposed that the Council, after consultations with the States concerned, should again review the subject during its resumed organizational session which would be held before the organizational session of the Executive Board of UNICEF.

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* Resumed from the 8th meeting.

4. During that session, the Council should elect another candidate from the Group of Western European and other States and take the appropriate measures with regard to the members of the Group of Eastern European States.

It was so decided.

5. The PRESIDENT said that the resumed organizational session for 1993 was suspended.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

11th meeting

Wednesday, 26 May 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.11

AGENDA ITEM 5

Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1993/65, containing a list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation to the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly paragraphs 1 and 2 thereof, and said that he took it that the Council wished to approve Roster status for the non-governmental organizations listed in section I of the document and to approve accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in section II.

It was so decided [decision 1993/220].

AGENDA ITEM 6

Elections and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*concluded*)

2. The PRESIDENT recalled that, owing to a technical error made during the elections for the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on 28 April 1993, the seat which rotated among the regional groups every three years had been allocated to the Group of Eastern European States one year early. Accordingly, the election for that Group had been declared invalid, and a new election must be held to fill the one vacancy for that Group. In addition, since there were three vacancies for the Group of Western European and other States and since only two members had been elected, an additional member must be elected for that Group.

3. It had come to his attention that Turkey had been nominated by the Group of Western European and other States and that Romania had been nominated by the Group of Eastern European States. Since the number of candidates proposed for each of the two Groups was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed for those two Groups.

It was so decided [decision 1993/218].

4. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of the item.

Closure of the organizational session for 1993

5. The PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1993

Summary records of the 12th to 46th plenary meetings, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 28 June to 30 July 1993

Summary records of the 47th to 49th plenary meetings, held in New York on 21 October and 8th December 1993

High-level segment (12th to 17th meetings)

12th meeting

Monday, 28 June 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.12

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the 1993 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda for the high-level segment

2. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda and the proposals relating to the organization of work during the high-level segment, as set out in documents E/1993/100 and E/1993/L.21.

It was so decided [decision 1993/221, para. 1].

3. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his note in document E/1993/INF.5, which pointed out that the principal objective of the high-level segment was to promote a dialogue and exchange of views among heads of delegations. To that end, and as requested by the Council in decision 1992/217, delegations were urged to

make brief interventions of no longer than five minutes each and to circulate the full text of their statement beforehand or on the occasion of the first intervention.

AGENDA ITEM 2

World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development

4. The PRESIDENT remarked that in 1990 the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Aylwin, addressing the General Assembly, had said that the major current problem was the world social situation, which constituted a basic threat to international stability.

5. The World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995, was first and foremost a political necessity. Social problems, with their repercussions in the political and economic spheres, were a growing source of international tensions. They were a world phenomenon which affected men and women in all societies, albeit more intensely in the developing world. Nor were the developed societies spared. The international community must make the reduction of social tensions and the promotion of security one of its essential political priorities.

6. Poverty reduction, expansion of employment and the enhancement of social integration—three topics inscribed in the agenda of the World Summit—were undertakings capable of contributing decisively to peace and security. The Council needed to look into those challenges before conflicts broke out for want of peaceful cooperation. Agreement was essential on specific political measures in the areas mentioned. In that regard, the Council's work would be focused on three main lines of thought.

7. First, ways of reconciling greater social humanism with economic realism should be explored. Traditional formulas, particularly in the economic sector, did not seem to work, as could be seen from the growth in unemployment, the inapplicability of social systems to current development levels, structural adjustment policies with their heavy burden of social problems, particularly in the developing world and in the countries in transition, and the developed countries' huge budget deficits.

8. Secondly, the possibilities of unilateral or uniregional action together with the options available at the multilateral level should be examined. Whenever a crisis appeared, there was a temptation to fall back on one's own resources. That course had been disastrous in the 1930s and would be more equally ineffective in the 1990s, given the increased integration and interdependence of the international system and the importance of global factors.

9. Thirdly, the issues pointed to the need for a system of values and vision to find a way out of the crisis. What was called for was respect for the dignity of the human person, a more humane approach to economic matters in place of an economic view of human beings. The question was whether the United Nations system, Governments and civil society, represented by non-governmental organizations, were capable of defining interests that transcended national concerns. The question of values would surely have a central place in the debate.

10. Ms. DEGN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that Member States of the United Nations had pledged themselves in the Charter to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social process and development. The primary responsibility for giving effect to those commitments rested with individual States, working with the social partners at the national level. Their efforts could benefit greatly from cooperation at the regional and international levels; in that regard, the member States of the European Community supported the role of the United Nations system in fostering cooperation to promote social development, particularly in the developing world. The Summit could usefully consider means of making United Nations activities in the social field more coherent and effective. The Community welcomed the decisions concerning arrangements for non-governmental organization participation and the organization of meetings of experts. It also welcomed the Commission for Social Development's identification of a relevant framework for discussion of the three core issues on the Summit agenda.

11. The challenge facing any State was to ensure all its citizens living conditions that fully respected human dignity, including human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Summit must give a fresh impulse to social policy planning, in the industrial countries, where social systems were coming under increasing strain, in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, faced with the task of restructuring their entire economic and social system, and in developing countries where economic growth and the establishment of a suitable social framework were needed to reduce poverty and human suffering.

12. Europe had extensive experience of social development, which it would like to share with other Member States. The social dimension was an essential component of the Community's policies. Action by the Community was based on the need for a comprehensive strategy aimed at tackling social problems and promoting sustainable, non-inflationary growth, including a high level of employment and of social protection.

13. With regard to the core issues of the Summit, the expansion of productive employment was one of the main priorities for Governments in Europe. Faced with a very high level of unemployment, the European Community was increasingly focusing on the promotion of a more employment-intensive pattern of growth. Although government intervention was often desirable and necessary, experience had shown that it was insufficient, in itself to create and maintain long-term economic growth.

The private sector had an important part to play. The Commission on Social Development and UNDP in its *Human Development Report*[1] had identified a number of ways of promoting employment. At the same time, there was need to ensure that workers' rights, as defined by ILO standards, were protected and to enhance the access of women, the young and other vulnerable groups to productive employment. Active participation of the social partners was crucial in those fields.

14. In the European Community, social cohesion implied the promotion of solidarity, in particular with the least privileged people. The experiences of European countries with an elaborate social security system showed that, in order to achieve social integration, an adequate level of income was not enough. Human rights, health care and education, enabling people to develop their abilities, and full participation in society were equally important.

15. Without sustainable economic growth, long-term reduction of poverty in the developing world would not be possible. Growth strategies must provide employment and income for the poor and give special attention to the situation of women. In addition, appropriate population policies should be an integral part of national strategies. The Treaty of the European Union recognized the targeting of poverty as one of the priorities of the European Community's development policy. The European Community welcomed the World Bank's initiative to develop a poverty strategy based on economic growth and investment in human capital. It also welcomed the growing willingness of the international financial institutions to incorporate a social dimension in their policies.

16. At the international level, it was essential to make the most effective use of available resources for the promotion of social development, bearing in mind the growing demands they were expected to meet. The United Nations agencies, including ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, had an important role to play in the preparations for the Summit and its outcome. The Community invited them to specify their contributions in that regard, and urged the Secretary-General to establish a secretariat for the Summit as soon as possible.

17. In his report "An Agenda for Peace",[2] the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the consensus that social peace was as important as strategic or political peace. The European Community and its member States shared that view, and hoped the Summit would be based on a clear commitment to social justice. One of its main goals would be to create a greater awareness of the interdependence between economic and social development. It should lead also to a revitalization of the United Nations bodies concerned with social issues.

18. Mr. DERYCKE (Belgium) said that the importance of social development as an aspect of international cooperation was expressed in a number of Articles of the Charter but it was only in recent years that the international community had given the subject the attention it deserved. The Secretary-General's view that social peace was as important as strategic or political peace had recently been acknowledged by the Security Council. That global consensus should increase the international community's sensitivity to social imbalances so that peace could be established on a firm foundation in all countries and all regions.

19. In that context, the United Nations had a role to play. The new economic and political realities presented a challenge to Governments and the international community in general. The Council's discussion provided an opportunity to review the United Nations specialized agencies and bodies—whether the World Bank, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA or UNESCO—whose mandates and programmes were relevant to the social dimension of international cooperation.

20. Social development was a long-term enterprise whose progress must rest on secure foundations. In Belgium, for example, the level achieved was the outcome of successive advances made in the context of a democratic process accepted and driven by all sectors of the population. A long-term development policy, seeking a balance between economic efficiency and social justice, should ensure conditions in which the people could live in greater freedom and respect for human dignity. The latter implied the enjoyment of human rights, the full participation of everyone in society, and satisfactory standards of living, health care and education.

21. As a member of the European Community, Belgium attached great importance to the *Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.* The primary aims of social policy in the European Community were the protection of employment, the improvement of living and working conditions and adequate social protection.

22. Those themes would be dealt with in one form or another by the World Summit. With regard to the alleviation and reduction of poverty, social development strategies should be sustainable and draw on the most effective human and other resources. Well-designed social policies and programmes should tackle the root causes of poverty, and pay particular attention to the impoverishment of women.

23. The expansion of productive employment was a major challenge to Governments everywhere. Confidence-building measures were needed at the international as well as the national level as a tool against recession. The European Community, of which Belgium would be president during the coming months, would seek to promote economic recovery in Europe and would also call for an effectively concerted effort at the international level. Programmes should be instituted to improve the access of workers to loans, technology, training and social services. At the same time workers' rights must

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[1] Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1993.

[2] A/47/277.

be safeguarded in accordance with ILO international standards.

24. Social cohesion took many forms. In the European Community, it involved the promotion of solidarity with the least advantaged and most vulnerable groups. Social integration policy should create a viable social environment which enabled individuals to benefit from the fruits of economic growth. The social security system was an essential tool. Belgium was working to maintain the arrangements in place at the national level.

25. The United Nations could play a crucial role in sustainable social development. With the assistance of the United Nations and other organizations of the system, Governments in the developing world in particular, would be in a position to formulate a balanced social policy which put the individual at the centre of development.

26. Mr. MOLINA (Chile) said that real development was impossible without a balanced combination of economic growth and social justice. In the case of Latin America, economic growth could only be achieved through integration in the world economy. That called for improvement of the competitiveness of national economies, which had to be undertaken by the countries concerned, and better access to world markets, which was in the long-term interest of importing and exporting countries alike.

27. To increase competitiveness, national economies had to be opened up. Adjustment and reconstruction programmes were also necessary and might have adverse social effects. Action was needed to mitigate those effects and also a broad social policy (investment in education, health, training and modernization programmes, particularly in agriculture, programmes targeted on women and disadvantaged sectors of the population, and adaptation of labour legislation). It was essential that social policy should be coherent. Each country should establish a "social authority" to take its place beside the political and economic authorities.

28. One of the core topics to be taken up by the Summit was the expansion of productive employment. It was important that employment policy should be concerned with creating new jobs, not simply with protecting old ones. In Latin America, the small business sector should be a priority concern of the authorities. A great many urban and rural small businesses in the region were characterized by low productivity, and low income and there was a high concentration of poverty. It was incontrovertible that businesses were more productive, and countries more competitive when the benefits of progress were shared equitably. Encouragement must be given to growth and to social policies aimed at increasing earnings in low productivity sectors and expanding productive employment.

29. Grave injustices existed in the various countries, but no country could act alone. The Summit would provide a unique opportunity to attack the evils, evident everywhere, of flagrant inequality. If despite their differences all countries could pool their efforts, they should succeed in improving the living conditions of their peoples.

30. Mr. FREEMAN (United Kingdom) said that the linkages between economic growth, social progress, human rights, democracy and good government were complex but real. Economic growth was not sustainable without social and political development; those non-economic goals were of fundamental importance.

31. As the Commission on Social Development had affirmed in February 1993, social factors must be adequately understood and considered in formulating effective policies. That was a fundamental principle of sustainable development, which the British Overseas Development Administration was trying to put into practice. In doing so it drew on social as well as economic analysis. It was necessary to appreciate the social reality to ensure that the planned provision of services and infrastructure corresponded to peoples' own needs and situations. That social development perspective accepted that the behaviour of individuals was determined by structures and networks of social relationships and obligations, and by shared knowledge and values. Only by a process of shared respect between "indigenous" knowledge and technical skills could sustainability be achieved. Social development was not just concerned with the welfare of vulnerable groups. It meant that any economic development project should take the realities of society into consideration. How people defined their needs, and the priority and value they gave to them, varied greatly, not only from one country to another but between different groups of people. The way in which individuals, families and communities organized themselves in society had to be analysed in order to define those needs.

32. Similarly, social safety nets must be designed with an understanding of the local, diverse and heterogeneous nature of poverty. That meant responding to the perceived needs of project users and policy beneficiaries, reaching poor and disadvantaged populations, recognizing the roles and needs of women, as well as of men, and encouraging participation, all of which would contribute to economic growth.

33. Encouraging wider participation could lead to conflict and challenge those with vested interests or fixed ideas on gender. The social analysis of conflict as it applied to areas such as participation was a vital consideration.

34. Human behaviour was not determined by economic rationalism alone. It was also shaped by society, culture and the historical moment in which the person lived. That understanding must surely be an underlying theme of the Summit agenda. The Summit gave the Council an opportunity to integrate more fully into its work an understanding of society as the context of sus-

tainable economic growth and long-term social development. The challenge was considerable, but the high-level segment could meet it.

35. Mr. IFVARSSON (Observer for Sweden) said that two recent reports, one submitted to the European Conference of Ministers for Social Affairs which was opening in Bratislava, and the other, *Human Development Report 1993*, published by UNDP conveyed the same message in different words, namely, that "poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere". That thought was a key element in the Declaration of Philadelphia, adopted by ILO almost 50 years previously and enshrined in the ILO Constitution. For several decades, however, it had been overshadowed by a concept of national security. With the end of the cold war, the international community should put greater stress on the people's security, security through human development and food, employment and environmental security. It must be recognized that the formulation of social policies was the responsibility of the international community, not of the individual State alone.

36. In the Swedish Government's view, the objective of the World Summit for Social Development was to put people at the centre of development, enhancing individual security by focusing on social needs and providing a common framework for United Nations action in that area. Poverty was growing worldwide, and the gap between the haves and have-nots was widening. The core of the Summit's agenda must be the alleviation of poverty, with particular emphasis on the impoverishment of women and the situation of children, the elderly and the disabled. The Summit should provide an opportunity to emphasize the importance of social policy factors in reaching a proper balance between economic incentives and a fair social distribution of resources and thus contributing to sustainable development.

37. A major challenge to all societies was to achieve people's social and economic integration in the labour market. In industrial as well as developing countries, weak growth and recession had meant that insufficient jobs were being created and even that jobs were vanishing, causing a new wave of unemployment. If recent labour-market trends continued at current rates for two generations, there was a danger of creating a socially segregated majority excluded from regular, stable, full-time employment and from a decent working income. One of the Summit's tasks was to prevent that prophecy from coming true. That was why the Swedish Government had offered to host a United Nations expert meeting on the promotion of productive employment in preparation for the Summit.

38. In the current situation, marked by budget austerity even in the relatively affluent industrial countries, it was important to safeguard welfare functions which were particularly vital to women. Women all over the world carried a large economic responsibility. They already experienced difficulty in finding work, and a reduction in welfare benefits could make them the big losers. Special measures should be taken to facilitate the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, for women and men. In Sweden, a number of reforms had been instituted for that purpose in the field of economic, family and social policies. Those reforms had generated other changes, such as the need for further measures, the expansion of child-care facilities and parental benefits.

39. In recent years the situation of the world's children had received the international community's particular attention. Although the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been ratified by over 100 countries, reports were received almost daily of children being neglected, exploited and even killed. Regardless of legal obligations under a ratified convention, there was a moral obligation, on all individuals and societies, to keep children's needs in mind. All children were entitled to a good start in life and to have their material and emotional needs provided for. Although there was a long way to go to secure that goal, the Summit could contribute to the creation throughout the world of the social conditions all children deserved.

40. Mr. SYED HAMID BIN SYED JAAFAR ALBAR (Malaysia) said that social development was about improving the quality of life of individuals and the environment they lived in. It was influenced by social values and norms which set in motion its visions and aspirations. Nor was it divorced from the issue of sustainability of the global environment. The world, unfortunately, was beset by social ills: hunger, poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and disease, exacerbated in some areas by civil strife and political unrest. Large groups of peoples were being displaced and subjected to atrocities and indignities. While there was still the promise of a more prosperous and equitable world with the end of the cold war, rapid change had created many new challenges and pitfalls. It was quite right, therefore, that the current high-level segment should be addressing social development issues.

41. Poverty, unemployment and low productivity employment were among the developing countries' gravest concerns. It was estimated that more than one fifth of the world population lived in poverty, most of the poor living in developing countries. The poor and unemployed were deprived of human dignity and basic human rights. The problems of poverty and unemployment would be solved only through rapid and sustained economic growth. That entailed significant investment in human resources, physical infrastructure and social services such as education, health and sanitation. In the developing countries, Governments must inevitably take the initiative and act as the catalyst. Malaysia recognized the importance of popular participation in all aspects of development: people themselves were the best fitted to define their needs and priorities. Malaysia had made exemplary strides. It had considerably reduced poverty and unemployment. The unemployment rate was currently estimated at 3.9 per cent. Although a developing country, it was host to some 800,000 workers from neighbouring countries, employed in plantations, building,

services and manufacturing. Equally striking were the results in poverty eradication; the incidence of poverty, estimated at 17.1 per cent in 1990, was expected to be 11.1 per cent in 1995. Only 3 per cent of the population was currently affected by extreme poverty.

42. Social integration enabled a society to develop a common vision and create norms and values as the foundation of social unity and political stability. Malaysia had ample experience in that field, because of its people's wide ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, with an added colonial heritage. In Malaysia, integration was facilitated by a policy aimed towards the systematic elimination of any possible identification of race by economic function.

43. Social mobility and socio-economic development were best advanced through education. In Malaysia, primary education was free and accessible to all; almost all children of school age (99 per cent) attended school. The educational system was aimed at meeting the manpower requirements of the next century's high-technology industries. The employment criteria were skill and competence, not ethnic, racial or religious background.

44. While developing countries were trying their best, the international environment was at times perverse, and the attitude of certain developed countries condescending. Prolonged recession and marginal economic growth rates had provoked protectionist reaction, of which certain developing countries were bearing the cost. Only political will could put matters right. The developed countries must accept the economic realities of global interdependence and honour the right of others to development. Sustainable development entailed cooperative and complementary efforts, which took account of environmental concerns. It also involved changes in attitude and in consumption patterns, as well as a willingness to make concessions in resources and technologies, since the alternative would put social development for all at risk.

45. Mr. PRONK (Observer for the Netherlands) felt that the three core issues on the Summit agenda—poverty alleviation, the reduction of unemployment and the prevention of social exclusion—had been well chosen, since they focused on basic problems which beset all countries and called for worldwide solidarity. The Secretary-General had rightly underlined the dangers of exclusion, which deprived individuals and social groups of opportunities for education, social advancement and social protection or welfare, and excluded them from the job market and gainful productive employment. Unless eradicated, the phenomenon would bring about the collapse of institutions. As he saw it, the danger was accentuated by the tendency to regard marginalized groups as negligible, an error that was likely to bring about the end of civil society as it was now known. Exclusion was an issue to which the highest priority should be accorded.

46. The Summit should not follow the pattern of traditional North-South meetings. Transfers from North to South were not the only issue. A better understanding should be sought of the way the present system worked so that social decisions could be better integrated in economic mechanisms. In particular, the public sector's role should be reappraised.

47. The "welfare State" did not seem to be the best solution to the problem of poverty. The Netherlands was reviewing its own system and would not put it forward as a model. The lesson seemed to be that countries should be ready to listen to each other instead of urging the adoption of models which, in the end, proved questionable.

48. Preparations for the Summit would be fruitful if they met three essential conditions. Countries must exchange information on experience at the national level. Politicians must listen to and ponder criticisms levelled at them by interest groups or individuals. If the problem of exclusion was to be usefully tackled, there must be dialogue with those marginalized by the market and the system. Unless the marginalized participated, the Summit would undoubtedly stumble into the old pitfalls.

49. Mr. ROZENTAL (Mexico) said that the idea of convening, for the first time, a world summit for social development clearly showed that the social situation disquieted the entire international community. The problems were manifold and did not spare the developed countries. The extreme poverty in which so many individuals were living called for concerted, resolute measures. The optimism engendered by the end of the cold war had disappeared. The political and economic reforms undertaken in many countries, particularly in Latin America and Eastern Europe, had not sufficed to provide people with a rise in their standard of living. It was impossible to rely either on State action alone or the working of free-market mechanisms. Each country must find its point of balance between action by the State and action by the private sector. Although the State's role needed to be redefined, it should not and could not abdicate its responsibility of promoting social justice with development. Economic growth was beyond doubt a major instrument in the struggle against poverty but it had to be accompanied by measures to bring about the equitable distribution of the results of growth.

50. Unemployment, too, was causing concern for all Governments and demanded imaginative efforts to find fresh solutions. At the same time, the globalizing of the economy was leading to a constant rise in productivity and competitiveness. In the developing countries, structural adjustment programmes had not included special action to protect the highly vulnerable. Democratically elected Governments should be assisted in promoting socio-economic development in the broadest sense, with the international community assuming its responsibilities. Governments would have to couple economic development programmes with measures to promote an economic environment conducive to development. No assistance, however generous, could provide benefits

equal to those resulting from open, equitable international trade.

51. The Mexican Government had set itself the task of formulating policies to help the most disadvantaged margins of the population. In particular, it had adopted a national solidarity programme, comprising a large number of projects in the fields of health, education and job creation with a view to enhancing social well-being at the national level. The fact that the programme sought to enlist the active participation of the targeted groups themselves would be a major factor in its success. Participation was an essential ingredient of any effective social development policy.

52. The actions of civil society would not be sufficient in themselves to raise the standard of living. More resources were needed and the international community should encourage their mobilization. It was gratifying that the World Bank and IMF were attaching more importance to poverty alleviation and the social consequences of structural adjustment programmes. In Mexico's view, the Summit should encourage all countries to commit themselves to promoting a suitable climate for the mobilization of resources for social development programmes.

53. Specific and innovative machinery should be designed for that purpose. Mexico, for its part, had already decided to hold a conference later in the year on poverty alleviation with a view to facilitating an exchange of ideas and the formulation of specific proposals. It had also proposed that the OAS should meet in special session on the topic of social development. The United Nations was an excellent forum for the exchange of information about national experience and examination of the problems of socio-economic development in a global perspective. As it approached its fiftieth anniversary, it must make its central concern the promotion of social as well as economic development. The elimination of inequality was the best safeguard of a lasting peace.

54. Mr. BRIOSA E GALA (Observer for Portugal) endorsed the statement made by the Danish representative on behalf of the European Community. From the beginning Portugal had enthusiastically supported the convening of the World Summit. The social situation of millions of people in both industrial and developing nations had been gradually deteriorating in recent years. The fight against poverty should be a clear priority and had been rightly selected as one of the Summit's three issues. Although poverty was found mainly in least developed countries, it also existed in some fast-growing economies, where the contrast between rich and poor reached proportions unequalled elsewhere.

55. The harsh political and social consequences resulting from macroeconomic stabilization and adjustment policies should be carefully examined. In sub-Saharan Africa, they had clearly not produced the economic growth expected. They had resulted in considerable degradation of the inhabitants' living conditions. The international community should strike a balance between the macroeconomic objectives it pursued and the developing countries' interests. It was in everybody's interest to adopt anti-poverty policies that were less centralized and provided more opportunity for participation. They should enlist the cooperation of the populations concerned and encourage complementary efforts by the public and private sectors, with particular attention to the least advantaged population strata. The fight against poverty had to be based on the more active participation of individuals in the development process. Economic development and human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent.

56. Briefly summarizing some of his country's policies in the social development field, he said that economic and financial policies should pursue social objectives, and social progress should go hand in hand with economic growth. Social policy should be seen in a dual perspective; social expenditure was an investment and, at the same time, a safety net against risks that might occur during a lifetime.

57. Portugal had been working to extend social coverage to broader population sectors, while increasing protection for the unemployed. It recognized the need to implement specific measures to reintegrate marginalized groups or prevent their incidence, through action to reduce social exclusion and protect families and children in particularly vulnerable situations.

58. During the past 20 years Portugal had received a considerable flow of immigrants from African countries, who had increased the population of areas that were already regarded as depressed. Portugal was trying to overcome the difficulties faced by those communities, with special emphasis on the improvement of their living conditions. No less important was the need to continue promoting the advancement of those populations in their countries of origin. The countries of Portuguese-speaking Africa were, and would continue to be, priority beneficiaries of Portugal's cooperation efforts.

59. Portugal's interest in social development, both internally and at the international level, was unquestionable. Portugal wished to participate further in United Nations efforts to strengthen international cooperation to reduce poverty and unemployment. For that reason it had decided to put forward its candidature for membership of the Economic and Social Council.

60. Mr. KHURSHID (India) said that the Secretary-General's report provided a theoretical underpinning to the core issues the General Assembly had identified for deliberations at the World Summit: the expansion of productive employment, the alleviation and reduction of poverty and the enhancement of social integration. Those issues deserved the international community's full attention; their ramifications were both social and economic, and thus inseparable. The Summit would provide a unique opportunity to deal with those urgent issues and, it was hoped, would result in the recognition of a

global responsibility for addressing the problems of development and poverty, with a redirection of resources to realistic, pragmatic programmes to combat poverty and hunger and sustain economic growth.

61. There was no need to point out that disparities in development and economic prospects were the cause of most current divisions in the world. The reasons were often historical, but the question was how quickly the inequalities could be reduced. Only if societies all over the world recognized the need to assist all sectors of society and to offer them a future, especially the disadvantaged and marginalized, could conflict be reduced and social integration promoted.

62. In that respect, India was a unique case: a land of diversities, it was in many ways a microcosm of the world. Its society was pluralist, its State structure secular. From that diversity it drew its strength. It was, therefore, in favour of the Summit, and its Government would participate actively in the preparations for it. Moreover, as recognized by the United Nations in its *Report on the World Social Situation 1993* (E/1993/50/Rev.1), India, a multiethnic, multicultural society of some 900 million inhabitants, had succeeded in decentralizing its policy-making and in the advancement of socially marginalized groups.

63. He cited three examples. First, with regard to the situation of women, India had made significant progress through legislative and administrative measures, and the status of women had improved significantly during the past 20 years. In 1992 the National Commission for Women had been set up to monitor the constitutional and legal status of women, review legislation and look into complaints about violations of women's rights. Secondly, India's population included castes and tribes which, for historical reasons, had been identified as socially disadvantaged. The Indian Constitution had afforded them representation in the national and various State legislatures, and in public-sector employment. A number of assistance programmes were targeted at them, and various resources earmarked. The Constitution provided for a National Commission for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, to enforce the safeguards guaranteed to them by the Constitution and other laws. A third example was that of minorities; the Constitution guaranteed them the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions. An Act of Parliament had established a National Commission for the Minorities, to safeguard the rights provided to them in the Constitution and in legislation enacted by Parliament and the State legislatures. The Commission dealt with the socio-economic and educational development of all minorities.

64. As could be seen, India viewed the right to development as a fundamental human right. A society that aimed to promote the rights of an individual and the dignity and freedom of the person could not do so by ways which ran counter to economic well-being. Individual freedom could not exist without the satisfaction of wants, and one could not exist to the detriment of the other. Therefore, conditionalities attached to aid impinged on the sovereignty of States by transferring decision-taking to outside agencies as well as politicizing the system of aid. That all ran counter to the international community's objectives, which were to fight want, hunger, disease and illiteracy.

65. The primary lesson to be learned from India's fight against poverty was that the phenomenon's complexity defied any uniform solution. The only chance of success was through specific projects sharply targeted on the most vulnerable groups, with genuine sensitivity to gender issues. India placed emphasis on programmes which directly addressed the problems of the poor, particularly the poorest. All programmes provided for a share of benefits in favour of women and other traditionally deprived population sectors. In the fight against poverty, the public authorities took the lead. That lead role included initiation of legislative measures such as land tenure reforms and decentralization of political power to village level, guaranteeing participation for women and vulnerable groups. But it had to be realized that even the most massive financial outlays had no meaning unless people themselves were involved in the implementation of the programmes intended for them. Therefore, India's anti-poverty strategy was based on making people responsible for the design and implementation of programmes and training them to manage their own programmes.

66. The external environment had an important bearing on the fight against poverty. The resource base of the developing countries had been shrinking rapidly in real terms due to several external factors. Countries in distress had no option but to reduce the social expenditures relevant to human development. The developing countries had long been calling for realization of the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA, strengthening of the resource base of the World Bank and IMF, and the encouragement of direct foreign investment and private capital flows. Unfortunately, cuts in public expenditure and subsidies, rising unemployment and a reduction of wage rates had been concomitants of structural adjustment programmes. Lending agencies should ensure that the adverse impacts were mitigated as far as possible, so that reforms did not become counter-productive in human terms. If poverty was not directly addressed in terms of resources and strategies that were humane, the reforms on which many countries had embarked would become politically unsustainable, and democracy itself, not to mention human rights, could well become a casualty. The developed countries and international agencies should at all times be alive to that basic truth.

67. The United Nations system had a clear, unambiguous role in poverty alleviation. At the highest level, it could facilitate cooperation and understanding among Governments, as had been done in discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, UNCTAD and the specialized agencies. The Summit would provide an opportunity to put in place an effective

system for coordination. While the Council provided a central intergovernmental forum, the need to discuss poverty on a more continuous basis called for modifications to its methods of work. At the field level, too, a greater coordination effort was required not only between United Nations funds and programmes but also with the specialized agencies.

68. The Summit would coincide with the United Nations' fiftieth anniversary. India was willing to place its experience and expertise at the disposal of the United Nations system, with a view to developing strategies that were credible and workable in order to alleviate poverty in the short term and eradicate it ultimately. It was a quest for the right of the poor to food, work, education, health and shelter. Those were the rights which guaranteed dignity to the human race. If large numbers were deprived of them, there could be neither employment, poverty reduction, social integration nor stability.

69. Ms. NORDHEIM-LARSEN (Norway) said that the breakdown of old regimes, the establishment of new nations, rising nationalism, civil wars and regional conflicts in the early 1990s had shown how precarious the established social order was. The challenge in that regard was how to achieve sustainable social development which ensured all people integration and access to social services and income. Integration was also a matter of participation. It had to be realized that people had responsibilities to society and an influence on the way in which it was governed. The majority of the world's people did not enjoy such participation.

70. The Norwegian Government had made the fight against unemployment its foremost domestic priority. The problem was serious in the OECD countries, but the situation in the developing countries was even worse. That being so, the North must also re-examine its conventional approach to employment. The OECD secretariat had published a report on differentiation between the sexes in the labour market, which showed that women were often regarded as "unstable"—in other words, as half-hearted members of the labour force, seeking and leaving jobs according to the circumstances of their life. Such "instability", however, would one day come to be regarded as "flexibility", in view of changes in the labour market and increased demands for mobility and adaptability. Seen in that light, women's career patterns might be a mirror of the future.

71. It was customary to view the fight against poverty in the developing countries as the fundamental objective of development policy. Without sustainable economic growth, however, the fight was in vain. One of the strategies for reducing poverty was to make use of the most abundant asset—the labour force. That in turn compelled Governments to pursue the development of an economic policy geared to job creation.

72. Another element in the fight against poverty was a fair distribution of wealth. Governments would have to re-examine their fiscal policies and military spending as compared with spending on health and social welfare. Fair distribution also involved transfers from rich to poor countries. He took the opportunity to underline the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent GNP as ODA.

73. The problems to be solved were of an international nature, common to all countries and the United Nations had therefore an important role to play. It combined considerable research and analytic capacity, including access to practically the whole world, with the possibility of political high-level decision-taking. It was to be hoped that the Council's deliberations would point to issues that the Secretariat and Member States could explore before the Summit, so that the latter would have a clear understanding of the problems and an agenda for tackling them.

74. Mr. AZZÀRA (Italy) believed the Summit provided an important opportunity to create greater awareness of the interdependence between economic and social development. It should also lead to a better understanding of how sustainable economic development could be achieved so as to protect the vulnerable sectors of society and promote social justice by generating employment, improving living standards, reducing inequalities and expanding basic health and social services as well as education.

75. Secondly, Italy was particularly sensitive to the need to fight unemployment, which was very high. It was sparing no effort, in line with the conclusions of the recent European Council in Copenhagen, to relaunch industrial production and apply coherent policies in the labour market in respect of wages structure, flexible and diversified types of employment and vocational training. At the same time, social security would be safeguarded as far as possible.

76. Thirdly, Italy was convinced that promoting solidarity, in particular with the least privileged and most vulnerable, was essential to social cohesion. Social progress and development were inevitably based on respect for the dignity of man and should promote human rights and social justice.

77. Lastly, the Summit must also be an occasion for supporting the efforts to foster sustainable growth in the developing countries, particularly the least developed, and to promote their integration in the world economy. In that regard, Italy was fully engaged in the search for new and more effective ways of cooperation. In recent years, Italy had cooperated in various regions afflicted by conflicts, for example in Central America through the PRODERE programme, and in Mozambique. In those initiatives, social issues, and the participation of all the parties concerned, were given special priority.

78. The United Nations, for its part, must not fail to grasp the opportunity offered by the Summit in order to mobilize all the necessary resources to improve the living conditions of all.

79. The PRESIDENT, summarizing the opening of the discussion, said that the convening of the Summit had met with clear approval. All delegations considered it a suitable way to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

80. Further general feelings were discernible: the three issues selected for the Summit were linked to real, fundamental problems, and the international community was becoming aware that it was the common interest to seek joint multilateral solutions. Traditional approaches no longer served, as could be seen in the case of unemployment; and it was felt that the notion of security should focus more on the individual rather than on the State. It must also be discovered why social welfare systems were not serving as well as in the past in the developed countries, and were even leading to tensions. As several speakers had mentioned, the Summit would provide an opportunity to exchange national experiences and thus examine approaches that in some cases had produced good results.

81. It was generally recognized that, in all societies, the weakest sectors should be assisted, as a matter of priority. At stake were human dignity, human rights in general, and democracy. It was that criterion which should govern the approach to market liberalization and warranted the questioning of some structural adjustment programmes. In short, it was very clearly felt that political, economic and social development must be properly balanced.

82. Many speakers had referred to the topic of resources for social development stressing that the matter must be viewed in a broader framework than mere North-South transfers. Several speakers had stressed that peoples must be enabled to participate actively in their own social development.

83. In addition, many speakers had stressed the role of the United Nations in the preparatory process for the Summit. In that regard, he did not believe it was necessary to adopt the traditional procedure normal in the General Assembly. The style of the preparations would be very important and could be resolutely innovative.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

13th meeting

Monday, 28 June 1993, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.13

AGENDA ITEM 2

World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development (*continued*)

1. Mrs. ZAFRA TURBAY (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the high-level segment marked an important stage in preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and should, as pointed out in the Preparatory Committee, seek to set a framework of reference for the Summit. In spite of the considerable attention social development had received over the years, little progress had been made in narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries. In fact the 1980s had witnessed serious regressions in the social indicators of almost all countries.

2. The Group of 77 were convinced that, given the necessary political will, agreements could be reached that would substantially reduce poverty throughout the world, through policies to expand productive employment and eliminate the causes that had excluded wide sections of the population from prospering.

3. In the Preparatory Committee, the President of the Council had posed the question whether there were political and moral limits to poverty, some minimal standards below which no human being can be expected to live. He had asked also how international responsibility extended. For the Group of 77 those were the overriding issues. The right to development was no less basic than economic, social and cultural rights. It was unacceptable that masses of the people should be shut off from the benefits of scientific, technological and economic development.

4. The Group of 77 were increasingly concerned about the discriminatory and protectionist character of economic and trading policies that impeded the access of goods and services of developing countries to major markets. In the social sphere they were dismayed by growing evidence of xenophobia, racism and discrimina-

tion and by wars and massacres that pointed to social disintegration and the persistence of poverty.

5. It was for the international community as a whole to contribute to the formulation of policies promoting cooperation and supporting national efforts to raise living standards, and to formulate a concrete action programme to reduce the North-South gap and lay the foundation for stable peace and security throughout the world. World peace and security were hardly conceivable in a social setting characterized by poverty, unemployment and a mounting wave of violence. Outbreaks of violence and social instability were not confined to Third World societies but were becoming increasingly evident in the industrialized countries as well. In order to grapple with poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, national strategies that involved all levels of society must be devised, regional mutual-aid strategies defined and realistic agreement reached on economic and social development policies based on the principles of mutual respect and benefit, and on the sovereign equality of all States.

6. The United Nations system must lend its support to such national, regional and multilateral actions and strike a balance between political action on behalf of international peace and security and the search for social development. Unless living standards could be raised, lasting peace would never be achieved. Among the objectives for the Summit was an international agreement to place people's needs at the centre of decision-making; promote international, regional and national cooperation with the participation of all sectors of society; give particular attention to the less developed countries; strike a balance between economic efficiency and social justice in development programmes; and redefine the role of the State and the limits of market forces so as to ensure adequate provision of social services and to ensure that they reached the most vulnerable groups. A thorough evaluation needed to be made of development strategies and the mobilization of resources. Developing economies had regressed in the social field, despite the fact that economic adjustment programmes under the auspices of the World Bank and IMF had enabled some to achieve GDP growth rates over 4 per cent, reduce budget deficits, control inflation and bring their trade into balance. Even in countries where per capita income had increased it was very unevenly distributed. Some sectors of the population were becoming increasingly poor with a consequent expansion of parallel economies and informal sectors and a mounting wave of violence that called for a radical review of social policies. The new development models would have to be centred on people.

7. The World Summit would have to identify the causes of the social disintegration confronting the world. If it did not, a historic opportunity would be lost and the trends already discernible throughout the world would reach crisis proportions.

8. Mr. CHOKSI (World Bank) said that the Bank strongly believed that investment in human capital lay at the heart of any strategy for accelerating economic growth, reducing poverty, protecting the environment, and achieving technological progress. Investing in people was good economics, but was not enough. The poor could not benefit from more education and better health if they were unable to use those assets to increase their incomes. The principal asset of the poor was labour, and it came as no surprise that the countries of East Asia that had achieved the fastest growth rate over the last 30 years—Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia, for example—had not only invested heavily in social programmes but had also eschewed economic policies that discouraged the use of labour. Their policies, including emphasis on trade liberalization, deregulation and private sector development, had ensured that the labour and skills of their farmers and urban workers had been in heavy demand. Unfortunately, some other countries, despite heavy investments in social programmes, had wasted part of their potential for translating the assets gained into higher income for the poor—partly because of economic policies that penalized labour.

9. Social development was not simple. It had a major political dimension, and required a long gestation period. No country could avoid making hard choices in at least three areas: the effective integration of social programmes with macroeconomic policies; the striking of balances between competing sectoral demands and social development investments; and deciding which tasks the State should assume or finance and which should be left to the private sector.

10. Many developing countries were further constrained by fiscal crises and the need to restructure their economies. Although, in the long run, stabilization and structural reforms were likely to lead to economic growth, stabilization might disproportionately harm the poor and undercut social development programmes in the short run. Stabilization would tend to reduce aggregate demand and the poor would be hurt by increases in unemployment. It was imperative therefore that Governments should simultaneously put into place social programmes and provide social safety nets to protect the poor and disadvantaged. Proper structural adjustment and stabilization policies, combined with the provision of social safety nets, were central to comprehensive development.

11. Four areas in which the international community could assist countries with their social development programmes were: increasing the volume of aid to the social sectors; agreement between Governments and assistance agencies to allocate their resources to priority areas in human development, focusing much more than was now the case on primary education and basic health provision; the transfer of ideas, the wide application of successful practices, and the building of national institutional capacities—all matters in which the international organizations had a crucial role to play; a major expansion and intensification of intellectual and operational cooperation at the global and country levels to reinforce complementarities based on comparative advantage.

12. The central objective of the World Summit, sustainable poverty reduction, was also the major concern of the World Bank, which would be glad to make available its analytical work and experience in the field. It would share its progress reports on the implementation of its poverty reduction strategy, its *World Development Report 1993: Investing in Health*, its report in best practices in managing the social cost of adjustment for workers, analytical reports on the role of women in development, a paper on social safety nets, and a special study on priorities and strategies for education. Many of those studies would be incorporated in a major report on human resources development which would serve as the Bank's basic contribution to the Summit.

13. Faced with the dilemma of choosing how to spend scarce development resources, the Bank had chosen poverty reduction as the priority and integrating theme for its entire development agenda. Protecting the environment, promoting market-friendly economic reforms, improving public sector management, encouraging good governance were means to the ultimate end—reducing poverty and improving people's lives.

14. Mr. PÉREZ (Spain) said his Government endorsed the ideas and proposals presented by the Danish representative on behalf of the European Community.

15. Future social development called for new strategies in line with the core issues of the Summit—the enhancement of social integration, the alleviation and reduction of poverty, and the expansion of productive employment. The strategies must place the needs of people at the heart of development and ensure the active participation of the citizen as an essential means of action. He welcomed the international financial agencies' desire to incorporate the social dimension in their policies, and the World Bank's initiative in developing strategies to deal with poverty based on economic growth and investment in human capital.

16. As part of the long process of social modernization on which the country had embarked under democracy, the Spanish Government had launched three policy initiatives to redress social inequality, increase social protection and enhance public participation. They were: sectoral policies relating to education, health, employment, social protection and integration; overall policies targeted towards the young, women, the elderly, children and the handicapped with a view to ensuring equality of opportunity and the protection of the most disadvantaged; and specific policies to reduce marginalization and the new problems arising in post-industrial societies, in particular those affecting ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants. The policies were based on a balance between economic efficiency and social development, and were an aspect of his Government's commitment to the consolidation of social rights as a means of creating a new culture of well-being, that would ensure that political progress went increasingly hand in hand with progress in social development.

17. Social peace was, as the Secretary-General had said, as strategically important as economic peace. The Summit must promote the social component and ensure its integration into sustainable development, according it the same importance as economic and environmental objectives. He believed the Council should request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on United Nations social development programmes and the resources available. The report could provide a basis for discussion in the Preparatory Committee and the formulation of new proposals for action. In that connection his Government believed that a ministerial level meeting should be held immediately before the Summit to facilitate decision-making by Heads of State and Government. Each Member State should prepare a position paper to complement that to be submitted by the Secretary-General in order to enable each country to formulate a national commitment to social development that could be incorporated in an integrated United Nations social development programme.

18. He wished the Preparatory Committee every success and trusted that the Summit would have an early and positive impact on the social development of mankind.

19. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that if the Summit's ambitious goals were to be achieved, Member States must work together to reform the way in which the United Nations system tackled the problems at issue. The Secretary-General had made clear the need for greater coherence and effectiveness and it was disappointing that the resumed General Assembly had failed to approve a draft resolution giving the Council a stronger coordinating role in overseeing operational activities.

20. The Summit for Social Development was part of a larger effort to make progress towards the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. Although participants were representatives of their Governments, they were also advocates for people. His Government proposed that the Summit should spell out a new agenda for people, setting out the principles, responsibilities and actions required to raise standards of social development throughout the world. Rather than create new institutions, it should build on the work of recent United Nations conferences on children, the environment, nutrition and human rights, and on the forthcoming conferences on population and women.

21. It should also build on national experiences with development and the pursuit of social justice. On the issue of integration, his Government had convictions based on more than 200 years of experimentation with freedom and believed that an agenda for people must begin with the right of every individual to a voice in determining his or her own destiny. Marginalization of the poor or the different was far less likely when every citizen had the right to vote, the right to speak, the right to assemble, and the right to organize and advocate change.

22. Integration also required respect for human rights, without which there could be no human or social development. As his Government had stressed at the World Conference on Human Rights, recently held in Vienna, human rights were universal. No circumstance of birth, culture or geography could limit the right to live in freedom and dignity. The lesson of logic was that nations could not prosper without contributions from all their people. The lesson of history was that the nations that liberated their human potential, invested in human capital and defended human rights, were those most likely to develop and grow.

23. Governments needed also to develop and implement national strategies for social integration. While it was easier for some to provide for the needs of their citizens than for others, every nation could strive to provide equal access to opportunities and information, to establish institutions enabling people to participate in the decisions that directly affected their lives, and to demolish the crippling and divisive barriers of discrimination.

24. His Government was committed to working with the international community to increase the effectiveness of efforts to alleviate poverty. Poverty dragged down communities and stifled economic growth, and it provided fertile ground for instability, civil strife and war.

25. An agenda for people must stress the importance of education and non-discriminatory access to it. It must strive to improve health care, fight narcotics addiction and combat infectious and parasitic disease. Efforts must be continued to close the gap in food production and reduce hunger and malnutrition. Information should be constantly exchanged so that strategies that had alleviated poverty in one country or region could be tried in others.

26. Achievement of a consensus on the stabilization of global population growth was particularly important. If estimates of population growth proved correct, tens of millions of the children brought into the world would know no life but slow death. Unless population growth was brought under control, efforts to raise living standards and per capita income would be in vain. Uncontrolled population growth also created enormous pressures on the environment. In order to stabilize population growth his Government was pursuing a comprehensive approach to the rights and needs of women. A broader approach was needed that viewed family planning services and reproductive health as mutually reinforcing programmes. He hoped that the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994 would provide a foundation on which the World Summit could build.

27. The third core issue was the generation of jobs, which, as United States history and the outcome of the cold war demonstrated, entailed a commitment to free market principles. Job creation necessitated cooperation between the public and the private sector, and between developed and less-developed nations. Regional rivalries had to be reconciled, and nations must trust one another and devote less resources to weapons and more to the creation of civilian jobs. Common ground must be found on the means to broaden access to education, skills, appropriate technology and opportunity, while maximizing the effectiveness of global lending and development assistance efforts.

28. His Government looked forward to working with other members of the Council on the development of an agenda for people to be unveiled at the Summit. The goal must be to produce not a catalogue of miscellaneous goals but a list of specific steps to make multilateral cooperation more effective and give greater prominence to social development as an international goal.

29. He believed the Council could help to carry out "preventive diplomacy" in the areas of social and economic life, and to that end proposed, in accordance with Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, that an annual meeting should be instituted between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, perhaps every January, to review potential economic and social crises around the world. The purpose would be to identify trends or problems that would threaten to engulf the nations if early action were not taken to bring them under control. Now that the cold war had ceased to frustrate efforts "to promote", in the words of the Charter, "social progress" and to "restore faith in fundamental human rights", the international community would find no more willing participant in pursuit of those goals than the Government of his country.

30. Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland) said that during the past decade the world social situation had sharply deteriorated, despite significant efforts at the national and international levels. If the negative trends were not halted and reversed, social problems would aggravate, threatening world peace and global stability.

31. Although economic growth was a key factor in poverty elimination and social progress, the goal should be not only rising income but also equitable distribution. The reduction of military budgets in favour of constructive measures to promote social progress, development and stability was also crucial. Changes in the world situation over the past three years had provided an unprecedented opportunity for progress towards the Charter goals including wider international cooperation in the social sphere. Poland had supported the idea of a World Summit for Social Development from its inception, since it would enhance cooperation in a domain recently overshadowed by other areas of cooperation.

32. Economic transformation had led to a temporary but sharp deterioration in the quality of life in Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and many developing countries. A growing number of countries in the region were afflicted by social problems such as poverty, large-scale unemployment, migration, ethnic and religious strife, drugs, violence and crime, many of which had international repercussions, and none of

which could be solved without enhanced international cooperation. It was hoped, therefore, that the social problems of transition would be reflected at the Summit and in its follow-up strategies.

33. In Poland, deep socio-economic transformations had brought about great challenges to the Government's social policy, requiring not only speedy reaction but the establishment of new long-term policy goals. The transformations included a changed role of the State as an institution, requiring a new formula for interaction between the State's social function, including market responses to rising social demands, on the one hand, and the imperatives of overall development, on the other. A Social Policy Council, under the aegis of the President of Poland, had recently been established, with the main task of proposing and elaborating systemic social policy reforms. That body would concentrate on issues such as expanding productive employment, alleviating problems of socially disadvantaged groups and working out a new concept of social insurance policies.

34. The Summit, by addressing the root causes of social degradation and promoting integrated economic and social policies, could help ensure a more just and a more peaceful future. It should also put the United Nations at the centre of international cooperation for social development. As the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated recently, Poland welcomed the initiative as a further sign of departure from ideologically-motivated disputes on social issues in favour of specific steps to strengthen the position of the individual and promote better standards of living. The entire preparatory process should focus on practical measures to promote cooperation in social development, taking into account the interdependence between national efforts and harmonization of the world economic environment.

35. The Organization's financial institutions and sectoral agencies were key factors in that regard. A more effective division of labour and a harmonized approach, including recognition of the separate but complementary roles of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations proper, should increase the effectiveness of their mutual actions. In order to reflect the interdependence between economic and social aspects of development, perhaps the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly could be merged. The *World Social Survey* and the *World Economic Survey* might be merged into a social and economic survey.

36. As a country in transition, Poland would be especially keen to consider ways in which the market could be used to address current social needs and aspirations and to formulate new ways to respond to future social challenges. Democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were indispensable prerequisites to social progress and development. Those universal values contributed to the effective allocation of scarce resources and an equitable sharing of the fruits of development.

37. Mr. KANKAANNIEMI (Observer for Finland) said that the World Summit, the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in 1995, and the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in 1994, would provide unprecedented opportunities for the international community to promote high-level, innovative multidisciplinary and cross-regional efforts in regard to central social development issues.

38. As Finland saw it, the objective of the World Summit was to put people at the centre of development, confirming the United Nations family's commitment to mobilize all efforts to improve the quality of life for all mankind. The security of the individual must be enhanced by focusing on peoples social needs and providing a common framework for integrated action by the United Nations.

39. The problem was not simply one of restoring growth, since poverty, environmental degradation and political and social exclusion were as likely to be generated during periods of rapid modernization as in times of stagnation, although the processes varied. Existing structures for international cooperation, including development cooperation, were often unsuited to the various challenges. Although poverty alleviation could be addressed more easily in times of rapid, sustained economic growth, slow growth or the lack of it was no reason for neglect. Governments had an interest in enabling their peoples to develop and utilize their human and economic potential.

40. The enhancement of social integration should be based on analysis of the current social crisis with a view to directing steps to reinforce or recreate an institutional environment to enhance opportunities for cooperation and solidarity. The knowledge and experience of developing and industrial countries were equally important; lessons must be learnt from the current situation both in countries with elaborate public welfare structures and in those which depended on informal, traditional structures. National poverty alleviation policies and programmes should address the root causes. His Government shared the view that productive employment generation rested partly on appropriate education, training and health care. Economic policies that supported entrepreneurship and investment were needed, and in all spheres labour market policies must be formulated and the rights of workers improved.

41. Evidence showed that increasing women's economic productivity was essential to the promotion of sustainable development and poverty reduction. Improved remuneration of women's work had become a crucial issue.

42. Social development should be considered also in the light of the United Nations' role in maintaining international peace and security, which were threatened not only by traditional problems but increasingly by the ef-

fects of unequal distribution of welfare, extensive poverty and inequality in all parts of the world. A new social dimension should be integrated into deliberations on development in general.

43. Mr. HANSENNE (Director-General, International Labour Office) said that ILO welcomed the General Assembly's decision to convene a World Summit. At its recent annual conference, it had requested all participants to share in ensuring its success. Even more welcome was the way in which the social dimension was defined in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77). The concept did not simply involve social welfare distribution, or acts of public and private charity, but rather the organizing of society so that each individual—and, at the international level, each nation—could share in producing wealth and enjoying its benefits. Promotion of productive employment, therefore, should be the central theme of the Summit; employment was the best means yet discovered for redistributing any wealth produced and thus combating poverty, as well as a prime factor of social integration.

44. ILO's main contribution to the Summit would focus on the problem of employment, a subject in which it had long experience in studies and technical cooperation with its member States. The aim, however, should be to create not just any sort of employment but productive jobs in fair and respectable conditions, together with adequate social protection. The wretched condition of millions of workers in the so-called informal sector was as big a challenge as unemployment to social policies.

45. He wished to make two observations regarding the Summit. The first one concerned procedure. With regard to employment problems, all democratic market-economy countries—which, fortunately, were currently the large majority—should consider them together with the social partners which played the major roles in the job market and without whose full and free participation no lasting solution was possible. Trade-union freedom and the right to free collective bargaining were recognized in the international conventions of ILO and formed part of the heritage of the United Nations system. ILO would continue to urge, therefore, that the representatives of employers and trade unions should be deemed full participants in discussions on employment, at international and national levels alike, and not simply as non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

46. His second observation concerned the outcome to be expected. Since the Summit could hardly adopt one uniform plan to combat unemployment, eradicate poverty and promote greater social cohesion, it would be up to each country, of course, to formulate its own policies. But it was important that they should be able to do so in the context of an ever more integrated world economy, to which national adjustment programmes and structural reforms could be adjusted, creating conditions for what the Managing Director of IMF had described as "high-quality growth".

47. Such an outcome, rather than a mere high-sounding declaration, should be the aim of the Summit. Heads of State and Government must recognize that social problems transcended national frontiers and that social conditions in their own countries concerned the entire world community. There must be recognition that the economic dimension could not be dissociated from the social dimension in the policies envisaged.

48. The Summit would be an opportunity to define ways of monitoring constantly evolving situations and to determine policies to be carried out at the national, regional and international levels in favour of individuals and nations currently excluded from the potential benefits of world technological and economic transformations. For its part, ILO, which would celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1994, was ready to participate fully in the preparation, organization and follow-up of the Summit.

49. Ms. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that, in Canada's view, social considerations should be better integrated into international economic development policies. In that context, it would be constructive to examine the relationship between the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. There were strong arguments that economic progress was a key contributor to social development. The linkage, however, worked in both directions: responsible social policies played a key role in fostering economic growth. Sustainable economic prosperity could be achieved only if supported by good governance, a multifaceted concept which included adoption of responsible fiscal and economic policies, priority to social programmes and recognition of limits beyond which government action was not effective, and the provision of sustainable social programmes which gave priority to health, education, poverty alleviation, the integration of women and the nurturing of children.

50. The World Summit should recognize that social development was not merely an index of economic progress but represented improvement in citizens' lives in all spheres, including respect for human rights and democratization. Canada firmly believed that "putting people first" was central to the Summit's success, and was convinced that there could be no true social development in the absence of respect for all human rights—economic, cultural, civil, political and social. Development must focus more on the needs of individuals. States should support programmes to maximize human potential, particularly those aimed at integrating the marginalized, one of the Summit's core themes. Canada had striven to promote the empowerment of marginalized groups and saw the Summit as an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to programmes aimed at equality for women, the disabled and members of ethnic minorities.

51. Research by the World Bank and UNDP had shown the great social and economic benefit of investment in sectors such as primary health care and education. The cost of failing to invest in society was equally

great. Armed conflict, population displacement, AIDS and other problems flourished in conditions of social unrest or extreme poverty. Since such threats spread from the country of origin to other States, it was squarely in the international community's interest to place more emphasis on human development programming.

52. Governments must involve all sectors of society in social policy decision-making. In that connection Canada was pleased that non-governmental organizations would participate in the preparation and work of the Summit. Partnership among Governments, non-governmental organizations and international agencies could lead to more efficient programme implementation. Clear identification of the comparative advantages of the various organizations and specialized agencies, including the Bretton Woods financial institutions, was essential in order to streamline activities and eliminate duplication. New ways of sharing existing development resources must be contemplated. Care must be taken that the Summit neither became paralysed by an overburdened agenda nor wasted its energies in seeking new resources that could not be found. If the Summit's goals were to be achieved, it would be by improving the impact of existing social development funding.

53. Canada had much to learn from other countries' social development experiences. It was convinced that, for developed and developing countries alike, the Summit would be of great benefit if it resulted in inclusive, dynamic and constructive dialogue on social development, at the international and national levels. Canada had as much to gain as any State from the Summit, and hoped that the latter would be a catalyst for domestic dialogue on social reform.

54. The Summit should play a fundamental role in the reform and revitalization of the United Nations' economic and social sectors; it was essential for those sectors to look into the efficacy and quality of their policies and programmes, as well as at possible new ways of utilizing existing development resources. The financial situation of the United Nations system would improve only when donors had confidence in a more effective use of resources. The subject of resources should be considered in the broadest sense, including access to world markets as a stimulus to economic growth.

55. The Summit should aim at practical solutions, identify priorities and draw clear guidelines in the form of a plan of action setting out the ways in which the international community and the United Nations system could collaborate in its implementation. If the Summit agenda was overburdened with desirable but unrealistic goals, there would be no substantive follow-up and the outcome would serve to reinforce the critics of the United Nations economic and social system. The adoption of a plan of action would represent an important step towards fulfilment of the objectives of the Summit and the long-awaited revitalization of the United Nations' social sector.

56. Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that the world was experiencing a period of large-scale and unpredictable change, one response to which could be seen in the work of the Security Council, which was more active than ever before, having been freed from the cold war. The Security Council's acknowledgement, at its Summit Meeting in January 1992, of the existence of non-military threats to security had been a positive development, but the practical implications were not yet known.[1] Although too many armed conflicts were currently taking place, the threat to the security and future of an overwhelming number of the world's peoples stemmed from non-military phenomena, such as poverty, lack of work and the threat of growing social disintegration; and the prospects for their children were no better. In that context, predicted world population growth remained an issue of fundamental concern.

57. Primary responsibility for policies and actions relating to those key issues rested with individual States and their Governments. But the key linkage of security to social deprivation and social dislocation was often lacking in policy-makers' analyses. Preoccupation with military security led to a failure to recognize the social and civil strength which followed from the inclusion of diverse cultures and the traditions. An economic, social and political environment which sought to exclude rather than include was inherently destabilizing. Failure to address issues of social policy as issues of productivity and national security, and failure to regard social policy as an integral part of national development, could lead to fragmentation and further human misery.

58. The United Nations and its family must meet the challenge of the changes taking place in the world. The Summit should identify policy goals for the multilateral system and provide the information enabling the system to act in concert on the issues of social cohesion and security. It would also provide a major opportunity for the political leadership of all Member States to learn from each other about contemporary problems and their solutions.

59. If the work of the United Nations and its family did not include the economic and social dimension as well as the security dimension, people and Governments would understandably lose faith in the United Nations and in multilateral cooperation.

60. Mr. PENNANEACH (Togo) said that despite the hopes created by the end of the cold war, mankind in general and the poor countries in particular were still facing painful experiences. The world economic crisis was deepening, particularly in the developing countries and in Africa. The social sector had to deal with the serious problems of poverty, unemployment, sickness, drugs, insecurity, and the social inequalities among the segments of the population in a single nation and between the countries of North and South. In the search for

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[1] S/23500.

an improved collective social well-being, joint action should take the form of a more dynamic partnership between North and South and between rich and poor. His delegation noted with regret that States, the United Nations system and the entire international community were unable to deal with the widening social gap between the wealthy countries and the developing nations.

61. The economies of the developing countries continued to be affected by a serious recession. In Africa, the crisis affected all aspects of society and in the least advanced African countries living conditions were deteriorating at a rapid pace. The socio-economic situation was characterized by an unequal distribution of the national income and aggravated by uncontrolled population growth. To deal with the crisis, Governments had undertaken courageous economic reforms with the assistance of the World Bank and IMF. Unfortunately, the reforms had not achieved their objectives. Structural adjustment programmes should be revised if they were to be truly useful for the States and societies concerned. The heavy debt burden should be alleviated by all possible means in order to give new impetus to development.

62. Genuine social development was impossible so long as the industrial world continued to control the markets for raw materials and manufactures. Prices should be negotiated and established by agreement between seller and buyer. While they imposed their manufacturers on the developing countries at fixed prices, the developed countries refused to buy commodities at reasonable prices. Practices of that kind were an obstacle to genuine social development.

63. Some of the problems the international community should seek to resolve included the eradication of poverty, improvement of the labour market, the solution of the debt problem, and intensification of the fight against such diseases as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Social development was not easy. It was a long-term undertaking incumbent upon all. No one could remain indifferent to the struggle that all countries had to wage against the causes and consequences of social misery.

64. Mr. MAYOR (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that rethinking the development of society had become imperative. The World Summit would continue the process that had been begun at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio on 1-12 June 1992 and would explore the social/economic/environmental interface in the light of the current crises, in particular the structural unemployment and social exclusion experienced in all countries.

65. It was encouraging that agreement had been reached on the three core issues, social integration, the alleviation of poverty, and the generation of productive employment.

66. Social development in the broad sense involved a global battle against all forms of exclusion, beginning with poverty, through the development of human resources and productive employment. It assumed that the developed countries would quickly make the necessary changes in their outlook and behaviour with regard to social integration, growth, consumption and employment. It also presupposed that the strategies drawn up by decision-makers would take into account the factors of world instability with regard to population questions. Lastly, it presupposed at the national and international level a common will and concerted effort by all those involved. At the national level, it was essential to harmonize the sectoral policies of employment, education, health, science and technology, territorial development and social integration. Those questions had to be dealt with by society as a whole and required the active and democratic participation of all members of society.

67. At the international level economic growth and cooperation would be important in arriving at a social compact provided they were coupled with a reorientation of trade and financial mechanisms. The moderation of consumerism would have a positive effect on well-being.

68. In the United Nations system, the process of reorientation was under way, but greater weight still needed to be given to the human and social dimension of development.

69. UNESCO would contribute fully to the elaboration of a conceptual and methodological framework at the system level as a tool to bring together appropriate social, economic and environmental policies. It would increase its efforts to promote the transfer and sharing of knowledge in order to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries. It would make available the results of the ongoing work of its two high-level commissions chaired by Mr. Jacques Delors and Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. Its forthcoming programme (for 1994-1995) included initiatives aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation in the area of social development through conceptual harmonization and an interdisciplinary project to strengthen efforts towards education for all in the year 2000.

70. Mr. STAEHELIN (Observer for Switzerland) said that social development should enable every individual to manage his life in a worthy and humane manner. That called for a range of multi- and transectoral actions. Those actions should of course be adapted to local and national contexts but should also promote peace, progress and justice as universal targets. They should be reflected in a strengthened commitment to priority social needs to permit the poor to develop socially satisfactory and economically productive initiatives. They also required political, economic and social environments conducive to the constructive participation of all members of society, including the most disadvantaged.

71. The "banking on the poor" approach implied some changes in international cooperation, as well as in both developed and developing countries. To that end, it

was essential to redefine the roles of the State and of civil society with a view to achieving full democracy, respect for human rights, and the full participation of all in the economic and social sectors.

72. In terms of development strategy, there were two primary objectives: guaranteeing the poor equitable access to the factors that were the source of development, land, credit and appropriate technologies, and increasing investment in health, education and the vocational training of the poor. The two objectives demanded a long-term commitment and should be integrated in a broader development strategy.

73. His delegation attached great importance to the role of the United Nations system in social development. On the basis of a critical analysis of its experience, the United Nations system should provide the stimulus for future international cooperation.

74. Mr. HATANO (Japan) said that his Government had supported the decision to convene a World Summit for Social Development and in particular the mandate assigned to it of furthering the objectives set out in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations. It had had reservations, however, regarding certain aspects of General Assembly resolution 47/92, such as the timing of the Summit and the breadth of issues it was expected to cover. He was gratified to note that, after intensive negotiations, the Summit was now to concentrate its efforts on three core issues.

75. The international community had a responsibility to assist the developing countries in raising the living standards of their peoples and fostering the growth of their economies. At the same time, it was important for the developing countries themselves to strive to overcome their peoples' social and economic hardships. His Government considered the development of human resources to be the most important factor in the social development of the countries concerned.

76. As the world's leading ODA donor, Japan was continuing to play an active role in that regard. In 1992, some 33 per cent of its bilateral assistance had been concentrated in the area of basic human needs. One example of the way in which Japan sought to support the developing countries' efforts to achieve economic growth was the International Conference on African Development, to be held in Tokyo in October 1993. Its purpose was to increase international awareness of the long-standing problems confronting the African countries and to contribute to their resolution. Japan hoped that the Conference would also help to allay fears that international attention and resources were being diverted from the needs of the developing countries of the South by difficulties elsewhere in the world, particularly in the East European countries and the former USSR. In that connection, his Government had also announced its intention of increasing its official financial cooperation to an average of 24 billion dollars a year over the next five years.

77. As a current member of the Security Council, Japan had been able to observe that, while the international community now had high expectations for United Nations peace-keeping operations, as a result other United Nations operations tended to be overshadowed. The Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" had addressed the problem of post-conflict peace-building, saying that only sustained cooperative work to deal with underlying economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems could place an achieved peace on a durable foundation. While that was true, the importance of pre-conflict peace-building as a means of preventing tension and confrontation should also be emphasized. Japan was committed to making the greatest contribution possible to the international community's peace-building efforts, in particular through development assistance to countries in need.

78. Given the gravity and complexity of the issues, it would be impossible to attain the Summit's goals unless the entire international community, North as well as South, both governmental and non-governmental organizations, joined hands in close cooperation. His Government hoped that the preparatory deliberations would be informed by a spirit of solidarity and that the utmost care would be taken to ensure that differences did not escalate into confrontation. He again affirmed his delegation's support for the basic goals of the Summit and expressed appreciation to the Government of Denmark for offering the venue for the meeting. His Government would participate actively in the preparatory process with a view to ensuring that the Summit would be a great success.

79. Ms. AHOYO (Benin) said that the concept of development must be extended beyond the improvement of national economies to cover decent living conditions, social justice, respect for human rights and the satisfaction of basic needs.

80. Her delegation defined social development as the eradication of the present unacceptable disparities between and within nations with a view to eliminating poverty and hunger, improving the health of the people and gradually conquering illiteracy and ignorance. Social development meant a joint effort by all the social partners to raise the standard of living of all strata of society, foster conditions for promoting job creation and raising incomes and establish a rule of law which would govern daily life in a rationally managed and protected environment. That concept, applying over a vast field, should be taken as the central axis about which joint action by governmental and non-governmental organizations and by the institutions, agencies and other organs of the United Nations system should be organized.

81. In his report "An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General said that poverty, disease, famine, oppression and despair were both the origin and the result of conflict. By doing so, he demonstrated that, in the new era that had emerged from the end of the cold war, people must be the major concern. It was claimed in

some quarters that because, here and there, democracy and respect for human rights had been recognized, a new world order had arisen. What meaning could democracy have, however, among a population where most people went hungry? Lip service might be paid to human rights, but where the essential values of social justice and solidarity were diminished by outrageous inequalities between rich and poor, the effect would be small. Development priorities must be rethought and redefined with a view to responding to the real needs.

82. The developing countries would like to see the World Summit act as a catalyst and a source of hope for the poor of all societies. Development plans and national budgets already being given priority should be reviewed and submitted directly to the attending Heads of State and Government who would commit themselves, by a political declaration, to putting them into effect.

83. In adopting resolution 47/92, the Assembly had sought to draw special attention to the promotion of the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, to defend the idea of the right to development, to promote the idea that strengthening peace and security demanded the satisfaction of social needs, to encourage public and private initiatives in the social field, and, above all, to defend the idea that it was vital to centre development and cooperation upon human beings.

84. Her delegation believed the Council should recommend that the Summit should concentrate its attention on a limited number of subjects generally regarded as priorities by all countries, on which positive measures could be adopted with a view to protecting the most vulnerable groups, children, the elderly, women, the handicapped, refugees and displaced persons. Her delegation supported the decision regarding the core issues to be addressed, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development. It would like the Council also to recommend that special attention should be paid to matters concerning the least developed countries and those which were threatened by drought and desertification or had undergone natural disasters.

85. In her delegation's view, the Summit might envisage a plan of action directed towards the establishment of an integrated programme for social development which, while respecting the machinery of the United Nations system, could issue common and general directives with a view to facilitating better integration and coordination of projects and programmes at the operational level.

86. The year 1992 had seen the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, and the General Assembly had already reviewed the modest progress made in remedying the discrimination to which the disabled were still subjected. Benin had contributed to the best of its ability to realizing the world programme of action targets, through the organization of seminars, the establishment of centres for the blind and the physically handicapped, and the opening of special schools for deaf children and for the mentally handicapped. A community-based rehabilitation programme had also been started with a view to providing overall health, education and training services for the disabled. Although the Decade was over, her delegation hoped that the Summit for Social Development would bear its theme, as well as that of the ageing of the world's population, in mind.

87. Her delegation believed that, provided it was well prepared at the national and the international level, the World Summit could serve as a great meeting-place for solidarity among the nations, like those previously organized by the international community to mark its interest in vast questions that had been identified as specially important for the survival of humanity.

88. Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that preparations for the World Summit should begin with the drafting of a specific agenda and the definition of a clear range of questions. Primary attention should be given to gradual integration of States at various levels of economic growth into a single international social system.

89. The examination of questions concerning social progress should seek to ensure practical steps aimed at protecting human rights and the effective operation of democratic institutions.

90. Economic growth could not be regarded as an end in itself and must lead to an improvement in the quality of life. It was therefore important that the Summit should result in the worldwide recognition of the close interrelationship between effective economic policies and social progress. The urgency of such an approach was clear for all countries, in particular the developing countries.

91. In that connection, it was not possible to rely exclusively on the role of the State in the resolution of social problems. However, it was also true that the desired results could not be achieved without a State policy that provided not only direct support for the vulnerable segments of the population but also specific measures to stimulate employment and involve the private sector in the resolution of social problems.

92. Cooperation in the resolution of social problems was one of the areas in which the United Nations had important "comparative advantages". The Organization should act as an effective coordinator of international social cooperation. Special attention should be given to improving cooperation in that field between the various bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations active in the social field.

93. The international financial institutions were well placed to provide resources and expertise. In that connection, he drew special attention to the potential of the regional commissions of the United Nations as bodies capable of coordinating multifaceted economic and social policies in the regions concerned.

94. In preparing for the Summit, it was important to take account of the social problems facing countries in transition. Effective solutions of those problems would have a great impact on the success of economic reforms and the prospects of creating a dynamic, balanced and open world economy.

95. United Nations activities in exceptional humanitarian situations were closely connected with many social problems including refugees, rehabilitation, and the creation of normal living conditions in areas which had been the site of conflicts. Consideration would have to be given to ways in which the United Nations could take preventive action in the social sphere with a view to creating social conditions that would help to put out a conflagration in its initial phase or even prevent it in general.

96. In conclusion, he welcomed the United States representative's suggestion concerning the possibility of closer interaction between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. His delegation had on several occasions proposed the use of the mechanism provided for in Article 65 of the Charter and his Government was prepared to support practical steps along those lines.

97. Mr. GRUBMAYR (Austria) said that social policy in a multidisciplinary sense was becoming more and more a focal point for government activities, worldwide. The interrelationship with other government activities was obvious and must be recognized by both industrial and developing societies and by rich and poor nations alike. The figures cited by the Secretary-General in his report (E/1993/77) demonstrated very clearly the global dimensions of social policy.

98. The interdependence of social developments had been further enhanced by the revolution in communications. Millions of people had been awakened to possibilities but given no guarantee of their fulfilment. One practical repercussion had been population movements unprecedented in the history of mankind. In the course of that development, Austria and most other European countries had become countries of immigration. Over the past three decades, at least 35 million people from developing countries had settled in the North. There were also new population flows between East and West, confronting European Governments with yet further challenges.

99. It was against that background that the General Assembly had decided to convene the World Summit. Austria had welcomed the initiative from the beginning, as well as the identification of social integration, the alleviation and reduction of poverty, and the generation of productive employment as core issues.

100. Social integration needed to be addressed comprehensively, using a long-term approach. Political democracy and full respect for human rights and freedom for the individual were the best guarantees of ultimate success. National legislation must provide the framework for social relations and social protection, at the same time maintaining a balance between interest groups and providing effective protection for the most vulnerable. Minorities, in particular, should benefit from positive measures to ensure non-discrimination and equality of treatment. The United Nations had already done remarkable work in that connection, including the preparation of a number of international instruments. The Summit should contribute to the early and universal implementation of these instruments.

101. The alleviation and reduction of poverty should be regarded as a key element in the social policy of every Government, regardless of the country's level of economic development. Basic social services, including access to food, health care and education, needed to be provided for every citizen. Since population growth and poverty were linked in many regions, family planning could become a component of strategies for reducing poverty, but economic growth would clearly remain the most essential condition.

102. The expansion of productive employment was another vital issue. In the past decade, unemployment and underemployment had increased worldwide, affecting most industrial regions and those countries with economies in transition. New relationships needed to be found between human resources and economic and social development, and development priorities might need to be redefined. The Secretary-General pointed out in his report that the newly established Commission on Sustainable Development was expected to address the problem of poverty and that many other units within the system were also focusing on questions of social development. The Austrian delegation believed that ILO, with its special tripartite structure and its mandate in the social and labour-related fields, could make a major contribution in that respect.

103. The Summit could be the beginning of a new form of cooperation between member States in the area of social development with a view to achieving social peace and stability. Its outcome could benefit not only member States but all human beings. It would also contribute to the further implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations as laid down in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the Charter. As the Secretary-General recognized in his report, social peace was as important as strategic or political peace.

104. Mr. ROBAINA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) said that the feeling that best described the current state of social development was frustration. Twenty-four years after the adoption of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[2] most of its objectives remained unfulfilled. According to UNICEF statistics, 14 million children under five years of age died in the developing world each year and, of every 1,000 children born, 300 did not reach the age of one. They were victims not of war and con-

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[2] General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

flict but of underdevelopment and of an unjust international economic system that compelled most of mankind to live in conditions of want and poverty which threatened their very survival. That tragedy was a sign of the deterioration of all social development indicators directly affecting the right to life of those peoples, as well as that of the growing numbers of marginalized and dispossessed in the industrial countries, the so-called fourth world.

105. In the current circumstances, that disheartening picture could be expected to grow worse. It was vital that the international community should take urgent and effective measures to overcome the obstacles that stood in the way of social development. Otherwise, future generations would inherit a world plagued by injustice and despair as well as environmental disaster.

106. His delegation had accordingly welcomed the proposal to convene a World Summit from which there might emerge a real commitment on the part of all States to promote international cooperation with a view to achieving social development for all peoples and persons. To attain that end, it was necessary to establish a global strategy and programme of action. Cuba rejected the idea that social development was only achievable through the application of a particular political system and of neo-liberal economic policies. The conditions that persisted in the third and fourth worlds gave the lie to those formulas. The structural imbalances intrinsic in those models had been emphasized, with devastating consequences in the social sphere.

107. More than 30 years ago, Cuba had chosen a development strategy designed to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of its citizens on a basis of equality without discrimination of any kind. The results of that experiment showed what advances could be achieved through the implementation of social justice, even in adverse conditions. Not only had there been significant achievements in satisfying basic needs and promoting the rational use of natural and human resources, but social freedom had been fostered and wide popular participation had been harnessed for development. Nevertheless, social development in Cuba had been, and was continuing to be, confronted with the powerful obstacle of the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed upon it. That policy, which denied Cuba the right to economic and social development and directly affected the level of living of its population, was an example of the kind of action that must be eradicated if social development was truly to be enhanced. As was reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23), such unilateral coercive measures, in particular the use of food as an instrument of political pressure, must cease.

108. The World Summit would only make sense if it was approached with the political will to take concrete action for international cooperation. There was no room for further rhetoric and theory. What was needed was action. Unequal trade must cease; the problem of external debt must be settled; development finance must be increased; protectionism must be eliminated and developing countries must be guaranteed access to markets, technology and scientific and technical development; the inalienable right of peoples and individuals to development must be recognized and made a reality; there must be a fair and equitable distribution of resources; there must be an end to coercive economic measures and tied development assistance; lastly, a framework must be established for fairer international and social relations which would promote the development of all peoples. Without the political will to respond to those challenges, there would be no point in meeting in 1995 and in spending resources which could be devoted to more practical ends. Cuba had the will to work constructively in the search for solutions which would not disappoint the hopes that, once again, the world had placed in the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

14th meeting

Tuesday, 29 June 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)
later: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.14

AGENDA ITEM 3

Policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264 and Council decision 1992/217, the day's meeting would be devoted to a policy dialogue and discussion with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system on important events in the world economy and international economic cooperation.

2. Mr. CAMDESSUS (Managing Director, International Monetary Fund), remarked that he welcomed the General Assembly's decision to hold the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 but that there were, in the meantime, many immediate challenges to be met. He proposed therefore to outline the way IMF had tackled those problems over the past year and explain what it was doing to promote the social dimension of growth and development.

3. IMF had had to make a major effort to adjust to its new responsibilities, which had become global in scope through its acquisition within the past two years of 25 new members, almost all of them facing the formidable difficulties of transition to a market economy. At its first meeting following upon that new situation, the Interim Committee of IMF, a ministerial body, had, in a departure from its usual practice, issued a statement emphasizing the importance of seizing the opportunities thus offered within the framework of worldwide cooperation. It had pointed out that world economic developments (turbulent currency markets, the recession in Europe, etc.), had underlined the planetary dimension of the problems facing an increasingly integrated economy. It was significant that the world's leading finance ministers had been unanimous in calling for worldwide cooperation to build confidence and improve the prospects of lasting non-inflationary expansion of the world economy.

4. Without going into detail about the policies unanimously adopted on that occasion, it could be said that the Interim Committee's statement laid down the main lines for a universal growth strategy, starting with the overriding necessity of bringing the Uruguay Round to a prompt and successful conclusion. The Interim Committee had highlighted the financial mechanisms of IMF, including the new Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility to assist growth-oriented adjustment strategies and facilitate debt-relief operations for low-income countries, in particular the African countries. It supported the idea of the new Systemic Transformation Facility and mentioned the possibility of an SDR allocation. He himself had proposed the release of SDRs totalling $36 billion.

5. The recognition by all IMF members of their joint responsibility and the affirmation of their resolve to act together to stimulate worldwide economic recovery, reform and development had greatly encouraged the management and staff of IMF. It provided guidance in all fields of activity: the surveillance of the industrial countries, support for structural adjustment to promote growth in the developing countries and assistance for stabilization and reform programmes in countries in transition. IMF had redoubled its activities in all those fields. The number of countries receiving its support had never been so large: 46 countries had financial agreements with it, and 22 others were negotiating financial support. In 1992, the Fund's activities had increased by more than 25 per cent, and they would no doubt continue to expand at the same rate in 1994.

6. The activities of IMF were the counterpart of an immense effort of adjustment and reform. The world was in labour. IMF believed that the future would live up to promise but recognized that, if a programme succeeded, the credit belonged to the Governments and peoples rather than to the Fund. It was greatly encouraged by the fact that so many developing countries—half of them in GDP terms—that had achieved high growth rates and were acting as locomotives of the world economy, were among those that had closely followed the recommendations of IMF on stabilization, structural adjustment and growth. That was true also of many of the countries in transition. Nevertheless, much remained to be done to consolidate the stabilization process, speed up reform, and clear the way for high-quality growth. The other half

of the developing world, as a result of wars, internal disorder or inadequate and sometimes foolish policies, still suffered from stagnation and regression. That was the Fund's chief cause for concern, but it was usually powerless to act. It looked forward to the time when it would be able to work with the approximately 70 countries concerned.

7. Turning to the social aspects of IMF-supported programmes, he said that the Fund aimed at supporting member countries in their social reform and adjustment endeavours. In June 1993, its Board of Governors had wholeheartedly endorsed that aspect of its activities, stressing that major adjustment and reform programmes were likely to be more effective if they included a social component.

8. The greatest contribution IMF could make to the social dimension of growth and development was to succeed in its own field of competence, macroeconomic reform and adjustment. Without economic growth, social progress and poverty reduction were impossible. If macroeconomic policy was incapable of achieving stabilization and adjustment of the economy, the poor suffered most. They were the principal losers if adjustment was thwarted by inadequate policies and only carried out as a result of economic collapse.

9. IMF went further. It contributed directly to social progress by adapting its loan mechanisms to the needs of its poorest members and assisting countries to respond more effectively to the problems of poor and vulnerable groups in the course of adjustment and reform. To that end, the sequence of operations had to be adjusted wherever possible to mitigate negative, and accentuate beneficial, effects. It was particularly important to maintain health and education expenditures at the right level, which often required rethinking of public expenditure priorities, including reductions in military expenditures and in subsidies.

10. In the short term, adjustment measures inevitably had adverse side-effects on the poor and called for sound, well-targeted and cost-effective social protection mechanisms, such as unemployment insurance, vocational retraining schemes and possibly subsidies, strictly confined to basic necessities. In that area, IMF had engaged in, and hoped to expand, successful cooperation with ILO. To finance such mechanisms, ample revenue was required, which entailed tax reform. That was where the shoe pinched, as tax reform generally highlighted the question of major inequalities in income distribution. The failure of programmes and delays in their implementation were not always due to poor planning or inadequate international financing. They were also caused by the resistance of vested-interest groups of the well-to-do. The reduction of disparities of income, the key to economic progress and democracy, raised a major problem of extraordinary complexity. Soon the banner of national sovereignty would be waved to deter the international community from raising the issue of unacceptable inequalities of income that hampered national development and also world progress.

11. Such, in outline, was the contribution of IMF in the social field and also one of the main obstacles it encountered. IMF, however, was the macroeconomic, not the social pillar of world cooperation. When it set itself social objectives, it could only act in association with the institutions mainly concerned, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the United Nations system (first and foremost UNDP) and ILO. More was needed. The social dimension had to be given its due place in IMF-supported programmes. Governments must be persuaded to reduce unproductive expenditure and to recognize the highly productive effects of social action. Health care, education and vocational retraining gave people their fullest opportunities. It was in those areas that the World Summit could make a decisive contribution.

12. The speaker referred to the Fund's contribution to the World Summit. The latter would take place in the context of the dramatic combination of opportunities and dangers that would mark the close of the century, the emergence of Europe from the most severe post-war recession without a reduction in unemployment, and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round but with persistence of protectionist pressures now in evidence. The former planned economy countries would not have completed their transition and competition for the scanty resources the international community could release for cooperation would probably be fiercer than ever. The Summit would not be meeting in easy circumstances. Participants would be more interested in removing barriers to progress than in setting the seal on a new doctrine. They would be keener to respond to the problems of the future than to hark back to those of the 1990s. The last decade of the old century would be dominated by the globalization of economies and the necessity of setting people at their centre.

13. The three core issues of the Summit's agenda—poverty alleviation, the expansion of employment and the promotion of social welfare—were three aspects of that equation. The reduction of unemployment and the alleviation of poverty depended on the quality of macroeconomic policies in the various countries. Sound policies were necessary but not sufficient and IMF would suggest that participants in the Summit should agree on three findings and three commitments.

14. The first finding would be the crucial importance of the social component in any high-quality growth strategy. That involved the expansion of employment, the reduction of poverty and inequalities of opportunity, the improvement of working conditions, improved arrangements for social welfare and vocational retraining mechanisms, and women's education. The field was so broad that the Summit might not be able to do much but a simple exchange of experiences would have great value, provided no Government tried to impose its own model.

15. The second finding should be the universality of the array of social problems encapsulated in the three core issues, and the importance of the systemic dimension as evidenced in problems of migration, the debate on social "dumping", and the disastrous social effects on other States of protectionism in the industrialized countries.

16. A third finding that was too often overlooked was that in the field of international cooperation and in critical situations, humanitarian action and assistance in rebuilding State institutions and restoring basic education and health services were initial steps towards reconstruction, stabilization and development. The precarious arrangements for financing relief and rehabilitation operations, which were the vanguard of international cooperation for development, needed to be recognized and corrected.

17. The first commitment participants in the Summit should make was to improve each country's social policy bearing in mind that lasting progress had to be underpinned by sound macroeconomic policies. In many cases labour market rigidities and rigidities in social welfare machinery were barriers to employment and encouraged marginalization. It was important too to remember that national social policies had international repercussions which should be openly discussed.

18. The second commitment should be to give renewed impetus to research and work on the systemic aspects of the social question, cooperate to that end, and encourage the collaboration of international institutions in social policy matters.

19. The third commitment should be to reinvigorate and increase the effectiveness of the social pillar of international collaboration, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, which were the natural leaders in that area. Their work, while admirable, was too often perceived as fragmented and insufficiently coordinated. That might be advanced as an excuse by those who saw no need for international action, but the fact was that the organizations concerned were starved of funds. The Secretary-General's efforts to improve coordination, the harmonization of approaches and the effectiveness of the social pillar of the system were in themselves a major contribution to preparations for the Summit, but if the latter was to succeed, the international community would also have to make a contribution.

20. That was a very ambitious programme. All the institutions could join in carrying it through. They must redouble their efforts to strengthen social development policies and prove that they were ready to rationalize their methods and avoid duplication and overlapping terms of reference. They should show that they were ready to tackle the most pressing problems at the lowest possible cost, and direct their inputs to countries best equipped to help themselves, where their efforts were most likely to mesh effectively with those of other partners. For its part, IMF was resolved to work to that end.

21. Mr. CHOKSI (World Bank) said that the fundamental goal of economic development was poverty reduction and the improvement of human welfare, in other words social development. Those objectives were at the top of the World Bank's agenda and were the main tests by which all involved in development should be judged.

22. Human resource development was an excellent investment in terms of its contribution to economic growth. In the education sector there was a strong positive association in developed and developing countries, between school enrolment and average growth rates over the entire period 1960 to 1985. The figures confirmed that an educated population was the key to long-term growth. The effects of education showed up not only in higher individual incomes but in benefits to society as a whole. For example, educated women had fewer and healthier children. They also contributed to environmental protection because of their reduced fertility and their greater ability to manage natural resources. From the social point of view, the return on investment in girls' education was greater than that in boys'. Social investment also had a direct economic impact on the health sector. Sickness resulted in losses in working time and earnings, which poorer families and countries could ill afford.

23. Public investments in basic health, education, nutrition and family planning complemented and interacted with each other in a manner which raised the economic return from any one of them. Investing in human resources was thus good economics and brought gains in all sectors for the present and future generations.

24. Nevertheless, investing in people was not enough. The nature of the economy also mattered. For example, the countries of East Asia that had had the fastest growth over the past 30 years had avoided macroeconomic distortions discouraging the use of labour, which was the principal asset of the poor.

25. With regard to the negative effects of structural adjustment on the poor, it had to be borne in mind that economic adjustment was unavoidable. The point at issue was whether it was planned and orderly or unplanned and chaotic. It was the latter adjustment that was devastating for the poor. Properly targeted structural adjustment policies, such as trade liberalization, financial market reforms, industrial deregulation, privatization, and flexible labour market policies encouraged more labour-intensive production and generated the employment necessary to assist poorer, unskilled workers to earn higher incomes

26. Similarly, proper macroeconomic stabilization policies were essential to improve living conditions. Without them, the disadvantaged sections of the population suffered heavily from inflation and widening income distribution. To counteract any negative effects it was imperative that Governments should simultaneously put in place social programmes and social safety nets

specifically designed to protect the poor and the disadvantaged.

27. The World Bank had been studying the poverty problem for a long time. The *World Development Report 1990: Poverty* had proposed a two-pronged strategy, emphasizing the indispensable role of economic growth coupled with the provision of basic social services for the poor. The Bank had at its disposal an array of institutional supports to help to translate the strategy into practice. The findings of its poverty assessments provided recommendations for poverty reduction in a given country and a basis for collaboration between country officials and the Bank on the best ways to improve living conditions.

28. The key to the Bank's efforts to reduce poverty was structural and sectoral adjustment operations designed to support reforms in the borrowing countries. More and more Bank-supported adjustment programmes included measures to protect the most vulnerable from declines in consumption and social services, with particular attention to nutrition and food security. Another mechanism for protecting the poor during and after adjustment was social funds and social action programmes. In a growing number of lending operations, the Bank encouraged beneficiary participation in projects.

29. Human development occupied an increasingly prominent place in World Bank lending. Over the past two decades, the bulk of lending for human resource development had been for education, average annual lending currently amounting to almost $2 billion a year. The Bank had also been making a concerted effort to integrate women in development components in all social sectors, and in its more traditional lending programmes.

30. With respect to nutrition operations, the Bank's lending programmes had multiplied 18-fold since 1987. Lending for health had also grown rapidly, the main thrust being the provision of primary health care services to poor women of child-bearing age and to children under the age of five, and prevention and control of AIDS.

31. He underscored the need for better coordination of poverty-reduction efforts between all bodies working for development. It was imperative to work closely together by making the best use of their comparative strengths. The underlying theme of the World Summit for Social Development—sustainable poverty reduction—was also the paramount objective of the Bank. It strongly supported the Summit and intended to participate actively in preparations for it by making available its progress reports and its experience in that field.

32. Mr. HUSSAIN (Personal Assistant to the Director-General, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said that he would confine his remarks to the multilateral trading system and its links with the current world economic situation, and the related question of the speedy conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Two disturbing and apparently interrelated factors were making their presence felt on the international stage: the world recession, and the repeated setbacks to the Uruguay Round.

33. Over the past year, trade and production had expanded in Asia, Latin America and North America, masking major areas of economic depression, particularly in Western Europe and Japan. Few observers would have believed five or 10 years earlier that the expansion of international trade would be so strongly influenced by those new poles of growth. There was no better example of the limitless possibilities offered by an open and liberal multilateral trading system. By virtue of its principles and contractual framework, GATT provided Governments and economic actors with a means to avoid excessive risks in their commercial undertakings.

34. Even if a continuation of the recovery in trade and production could be expected in 1993, many uncertainties remained and risks could only increase if trade disputes were allowed to worsen. The figures confirmed the key role of trade in mitigating the effects of recession through job creation and increased production. It was a matter of concern in that connection that trade liberalism was increasingly seen as a threat to employment in the world's industrial centres. Supporters of that view forgot the advantages an open multilateral system had brought societies over the past 40 years. The contribution that had been made by trade was primarily due to trading rules that had helped to contain the mounting protectionist pressures inevitable in the current climate of slackening growth. If Governments had given in to the pressures, thus undermining the rules governing international trade, the economic results of the last two years would have been decidedly worse.

35. The timetable for completion of the Uruguay Round had not been respected. Nevertheless, political consensus on the necessity of bringing the Round to a prompt conclusion was intact and had even been strengthened. The problem was inability to draw the practical conclusions. Perhaps recent initiatives by the main trading nations would result in the removal of the remaining obstacles. The Uruguay Round differed from earlier trade negotiations in being genuinely multilateral. It was not concerned with the establishment of rules by a particular group of countries or the granting of special, differential terms for others. The developing world and countries that had remained on the margins of the GATT system over the past 40 years knew that a special regime could not subsist and prove useful in the long term if the main system collapsed. For the first time all participating countries were engaged in working out rules and principles and modalities of market access.

36. The Uruguay Round was on the verge of agreement. All the elements necessary for completion of the Round were in place. What was lacking was political will and acceptance of reciprocal concessions at the negotiating table. The 1991 draft final act was a decisive turning-point and had made the Uruguay Round irreversible, for the risks associated with failure were too high for any Government to be willing to take them. The draft

was for the most part a negotiated document, accepted by all participants as the only multilateral basis upon which negotiations could be conducted. The draft final act marked a shifting of gears in the negotiating process, a move from negotiation by major product group to a global approach. It was important to conclude the Round rapidly, as the favourable circumstances mentioned might change.

37. The Uruguay Round had given impetus to GATT activities, unlike previous negotiations. One reason was the increase in the number of contracting parties, which had risen to 110, seven more than at the beginning of 1992 and 18 more than in 1986, when the Round began. In many cases Governments had become contracting parties because they were anxious to participate actively in the negotiations, an indication of the importance attached to the outcome of the Round.

38. GATT activity had expanded in other fields. It had established mechanisms for the examination of trade policies whose work had underlined the need for coherence between national trading policies and an open, liberal system of multilateral trade. A group on environmental measures and international trade had contributed to preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to its follow-up, the objective being to ensure that environmental and trade policies were mutually reinforcing. Various working groups were looking into the conformity of regional trading arrangements with GATT rules and the maintenance of a balance between regionalism and multilateralism.

39. Because of the difficulties that had delayed the completion of the Uruguay Round, some observers had concluded that the world trading system represented by GATT was in crisis. The system undoubtedly needed to be strengthened and adapted to new conditions, but the Uruguay Round was the only multilateral instrument available to achieve those objectives. The Managing Director of IMF and other speakers had referred to the wave of liberalism and reform throughout the world and the necessity of supporting it. That was a view he shared. In that connection, he referred to countries such as the Russian Federation and Viet Nam which had applied to join GATT and, with that in view, had lowered their tariff and non-tariff barriers. Their spontaneous action was striking evidence of their confidence in GATT.

40. The fact remained that the multilateral trading system had reached a difficult stage. GATT was weak and would have increasing difficulty in dealing with the tensions that racked the world economy. The machinery for the settlement of disputes was overloaded, because of the number and nature of the cases awaiting settlement. In many cases the present GATT system offered no solution. What was worse, recommendations for settlement were sometimes not applied because the countries concerned were waiting for the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. That attitude was regrettable, particularly on the part of major trading countries that should be the most loyal guardians of the system.

41. The delays in the conclusion of the Uruguay Round were impairing the credibility of the commitments made by Governments in international bodies. It was up to the Governments to strengthen GATT and make it a genuinely global economic and commercial system, as they had both the opportunity and the ability to do.

Mr. Huslid, Vice-President, took the Chair.

42. Mr. BERTHELOT (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) presented the apologies of Mr. Dadzie, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD who was detained at the OAU Summit meeting. The statement he would have made would be distributed.

43. UNCTAD, which had a Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, would contribute to work for the World Summit for Social Development in three areas: participation of the poor in the growth process by their integration into the production process, popular participation and questions relating to security systems.

44. In its *Trade and Development Report, 1992,*[1] UNCTAD had argued that, because of its debt burden, the private sector in most industrialized economies could not be the driving force for recovery of the world economy and that the success of the reforms initiated by a number of developing countries and countries in transition might be adversely affected by the absence of an expanding market for their exports. On the basis of that analysis, the major industrialized countries had been called upon to coordinate their policies in order to stimulate their economies and raise world demand to the level of productive potential. Steps had been taken in that direction, but the prospect of growth was poor in the OECD countries and in many developing countries. In the OECD countries unemployment was unprecedentedly high. The two factors taken together were affecting the prospects of the world economy.

45. In the United States, the recovery was weak and mainly driven by consumer spending. In Japan, weak internal demand was resulting in a trade surplus that was a burden on the rest of the world, and the banks were still not able to sustain more vigorous growth. The budgetary measures that had been taken were in the right direction but were not in themselves sufficient to revive the entire world economy. In Europe, prospects were gloomier. The recent fall in interest rates was encouraging but insufficient. The growth of unemployment in the industrial countries, including Japan, was leading to restructuring of enterprises. Increasingly employers were reducing the labour force, even in Japan where traditionally a reduction in working time was preferred. Unemployment was affecting the middle classes and becoming a destabilizing factor in the democracies. The divorce between the

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[1] United Nations publications, Sales number E.92.II.D.7.

microeconomic logic of enterprises and the interests of the society to which they belonged was creating tensions that could become critical in coming years.

46. Faced with worsening unemployment and budget deficits which limited their ability to stimulate their economies, the industrialized countries might be tempted to off-load the weight of deflation on their trading partners. That was why the Uruguay Round was so important. In that connection he associated himself with the previous speaker's observations. The world was engaged in a race against the clock. If the Uruguay Round failed, all countries would suffer, but the main victims would be the developing countries. For them, the draft final act had the great merit of codifying rights and duties and protecting them against abuses. The draft also provided for preferential treatment for the benefit of the developing countries. The treatment would be integrated into the normal working of GATT instead of being an exception. Its application would be normal, instead of being a favour whose maintenance could be used as a means of exerting pressure, as had sometimes happened in the past. In exchange for that greater degree of predictability, the developing countries were ready to assume more obligations. GATT would thus become a universal system. As the GATT representative had said, the world seemed to be caught in a vicious circle. The deteriorating economic situation and unemployment were causing protectionist pressures that put the Uruguay Round in jeopardy, while the failure to conclude the negotiations was reducing the potential of international trade and deepening the world's economic difficulties.

47. The fact had to be faced that the financial openness of the developing countries increased their vulnerability to the macroeconomic choices of the industrial countries. In the latter there was a crying need for greater policy coordination. There were, however, deep differences of opinion about the range of measures to be adopted. Japan was actively pursuing a recovery policy, while the member countries of the European Community wished to strengthen their monetary union and were setting themselves public borrowing and budget deficit targets that limited their scope for manoeuvre. Strengthening coordination did not mean that the same policy had to be adopted in all countries. Policy had to be adapted to circumstances and coordinated to serve a common end, i.e. economic recovery.

48. It had to be recognized that it was impossible to enjoy autonomy in monetary policies, freedom of capital movements, stable exchange rates and complete freedom of trade. Strongly convergent policies did not necessarily imply greater stability of exchange rates, as recent speculative pressures on the French franc showed, in spite of the support enjoyed by France at the time. Consideration should perhaps be given to the imposition of controls on short-term capital movements

49. The Managing Director of IMF had not perhaps given sufficient prominence to the successes some developing countries had achieved as a result of their macroeconomic policies. The successes had been due to persevering efforts to maintain a high level of savings, providing resources for investment in the public and private sector, and to sound policies, to control inflation and fix appropriate exchange rates. In that context, it had to be recognized that while public intervention in the public and commercial sectors could produce results, success was not guaranteed. It was essential that such policies should be pursued as stability was required to create confidence among national and international investors.

50. The prospects of many developing countries were affected by the recession. While the industrial countries should adopt concerted recovery policies, many developing countries, especially in Africa, suffered from structural and institutional weaknesses that put them at the mercy of factors beyond their control, such as commodity prices and climatic conditions. They should continue to be provided with external financial assistance but should also give clearer commitments to facilitate external investment.

51. Incontestable progress had been made in the management of external debt, and the problem was receding into the past. In some 50 developing countries, however, and in the countries of Eastern Europe, the situation continued to deteriorate, and debt rescheduling was inevitable. The countries involved were the poorest countries, particularly in Africa. The Toronto and Trinidad treatments were no longer sufficient, and more vigorous action was required, including multilateral debt relief.

52. Another issue that caused concern was the flow of capital to some developing countries, particularly in Latin America. The flow had initially been considerable but had subsequently dwindled because, it was said, of the macroeconomic policies of the countries concerned. It should be possible to determine whether the flows were of speculative capital or merely short-term movements. As the currency of the countries concerned appreciated, partly as a result of the inflow, their balance of trade tended to deteriorate. They were in consequence highly vulnerable to changes in the international economic situation. But in their case as well, stability would depend on the credit accorded to their national policies.

53. In the countries of the East, transition was a long and difficult process. It was essential that States should be strengthened and avoid dismemberment. Transition must take account of the volume of external assistance available and be taken into consideration in the commercial policy of donor countries.

54. In Asia, market access was of paramount importance, which brought one back to GATT. The Asian countries had succeeded in strengthening intra-Asian trade, but their markets should be more open to the exports of other developing countries, while the industrialized countries, especially those of Europe, should take account of the region's enormous growth potential.

55. In view of the danger of stagnation and instability, a new allocation of SDRs should be authorized for the benefit of regions suffering structural financial constraints. Efforts should be made to reduce the debt of the most seriously affected countries and speed up the multilateral trade negotiations under GATT. That was the message of UNCTAD to the Group of 7.

56. Mr. LONSMANN POULSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, asked the representatives of the four institutions who had been telling the Council how they intended to contribute to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development to give some clarifications and particulars.

57. There could be no doubt that economic efficiency and democratization policies went hand in hand, that the peaceful settlement of disputes was an indispensable precondition for economic development, that the international community should support democratization and economic reconstruction, and that social and economic development were closely interlinked. As the Managing Director of IMF had said, any growth strategy must be of "high quality". Could the institutions give details of the measures they would take further to ensure such a balanced approach to security?

58. The Managing Director of IMF had also remarked that the Fund was the macroeconomic pillar of the world cooperation system but not its social pillar. Cooperation was supposed to bring those two pillars together, but it would be helpful if the Managing Director could indicate how a merger might be brought about.

59. The representative of the World Bank had given a very full account of Bank action in the social field but had not concealed the fact that programmes to reduce poverty needed to be long-term. On what lines did the Bank envisage future medium- and long-term action?

60. He assured the representatives of GATT and UNCTAD that the European Community was fully aware that trade policies should be linked to the general effort to revive growth. The Community attached great importance to the successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations by the end of 1993, and was committed to a wider opening of markets for agricultural and industrial products, which was vital for the industrial countries, the developing countries and the countries of the East. It was said that there was no lack of consensus and no lack of political will. If that was the case why did difficulties subsist?

61. In the statements by the four institutions, little reference had been made to the need to ensure "ecologically sustainable development", which had been incumbent upon everyone since UNCED in 1992. He would like to know how the Rio decisions were being, and would be, put into effect. Had the institutions revised and reoriented some of their activities since UNCED?

62. The World Bank representative had stressed the importance of human resources development. Could he give details about the way in which the Bank intended further to promote that process? Was it well adapted to the new generations? What trade-offs would the Bank be obliged to make, and which activities was it resigning itself to reduce or limit in order to advance human resources development?

63. With regard to structural adjustment programmes and the democratization that had to accompany them, the Managing Director of IMF had said that the programmes were indispensable and still inadequate, and the European Community agreed. It was, however, concerned to note that the programmes rarely aroused the expected popular support in the countries concerned. How did IMF envisage substantially reducing their social costs in the future?

64. Both IMF and the World Bank would like to have greater resources to help countries carry out structural adjustment programmes. How did the two institutions deal with the debt problem in that connection and what volume of resources did they envisage allocating to its alleviation, bearing in mind that short-term capital movements seemed to be somewhat more favourable to the poorest countries?

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

15th meeting

Tuesday, 29 June 1993, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.15

AGENDA ITEM 3

Policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT said that many delegations wished to put questions to the representatives of financial and trade institutions who had spoken at the previous meeting. He asked speakers to confine themselves to brief questions.

2. Mr. KAARIA (Observer for Finland) said his delegation regretted that the Council was still indulging in long introductory statements which left little time for real debate.

3. In 1992 the high-level segment had initiated a reform of the United Nations development system at the political level. Some countries had had second thoughts about the proposals for reform, and they were no longer on the table. One difficulty had been the question of how membership of the governing bodies of the funds and programmes could be reduced at a time when United Nations membership was growing. But the principle of democracy, vital in the political field, did not necessarily lead to efficiency in the administration of funds. Unless that difference was acknowledged, there was little hope of successfully reforming United Nations operational activities for development. His delegation hoped that the Group of 77 would be prepared to take up the negotiated proposal, which currently had no sponsors, and agree to decide on the necessary reforms during the General Assembly's current session. Without reform there would inevitably be a search for alternative channels capable of providing development assistance more efficiently.

4. He wished to know whether the World Bank foresaw an increasing role for itself in the technical assistance field, whether there were other multilateral alternatives, whether something entirely new should be developed, or whether bilateral mechanisms should be turned to.

5. The PRESIDENT, speaking on a point of order, asked speakers to refrain from explanations and background observations, and confine themselves to brief questions.

6. Mr. WU Hailong (China) said that a recent IMF publication contained statistics based on a new method of calculating purchasing-power parities, as a result of which the output figures for developing countries were proportionately much greater than in the past. For example, China's output had increased twofold in the past year, according to the new basis of calculation, and per capita income had risen from $370 to $1,600, which would make China the world's third largest economy. The figures for India and other large developing countries also showed a dramatic increase. He asked the Managing Director of IMF to clarify the basis and reasons for the new method of calculation, which gave an impression at variance with the true situation.

7. Mr. NEAGU (Romania) said that, first, he would like to hear how the various institutions envisaged steps to enhance what the Secretary-General had described, at the Council's 1992 substantive session, as a complementary role of the Bretton Woods institutions in regard to the economic and social activities of the United Nations system. Secondly, he would like to know how the various institutions intended to promote activities in support of countries in transition to a market economy. Thirdly, asked whether any new steps were contemplated, further to the welcome measures already taken pursuant to Article 50 of the Charter, to protect countries, such as Romania, which were seriously affected by the economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

8. Mr. OSMANY (Bangladesh) asked, first, whether IMF would be seeking ways to ensure an optimum balance between market forces and State concerns with regard to social development programmes. Secondly, he wondered whether IMF would be in a position to present an input to the Summit on ways to address the social and political costs of structural adjustment, deregulation and market liberalization in the developing countries. Thirdly, he would like to know what approach was considered best to achieve a balance between free and managed trade with a view to enhancing social development. Fourthly, since the first three years of the current decade had shown that the donor community's promises in regard to adequate resources in support of the special programme of action for the 1990s had been largely a dead

letter, he asked whether the World Bank could provide some explanation in the 1995 mid-term review.

9. Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) noted with satisfaction that the representatives of the multilateral financial and trade institutions had reiterated, in addressing the Council at its previous meeting, the intention of the Bretton Woods institutions to coordinate efforts undertaken within the United Nations system. The question of resources for coordination, a major topic at UNCED, would be an important matter for the forthcoming World Summit but could not be considered in isolation from other sectors of international cooperation on issues such as social development. His first question, therefore, was how the institutions would view such coordination among all international agencies with regard to resource distribution. Secondly, with reference to measures proposed by the IMF Interim Committee to enhance IMF surveillance in order to identify and address potential problems such as exchange-rate volatility, he would like to know the reaction of IMF to a proposal, made at the Council's previous meeting, to make use of the mechanism, provided for under Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, for cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

10. Mr. PRONK (Observer for the Netherlands) said that years of difficult negotiation had seemingly resulted in a general consensus in favour of suitable macroeconomic policies aimed at greater stability, trade liberalization, safety nets and direct social programmes, and in agreement that such policies should be directed to two of the three elements to be addressed by the World Summit, employment creation and poverty alleviation. But that consensus might not be adequate to deal with more recent phenomena which the forthcoming Summit would have to address: the emergence of non-economic factors, such as religious and ethnic tensions, which exacerbated alienation and marginalization; and the growing transnationalization of trade, communications and investment, which led to "betting on the strong" at the expense of small organizations and communities. He wondered whether the multilateral trade and financial institutions acknowledged that problem and, if so, what additional policy elements they thought should be included in response; in particular, he wondered whether IMF and the World Bank deemed it their concern or saw it as a matter for other elements of the United Nations system.

11. The PRESIDENT said that, before continuing with the list of speakers, he would invite the representatives of the institutions to reply to the questions raised.

12. Mr. CAMDESSUS (Managing Director, International Monetary Fund) said it seemed to be thought, in some quarters, that the Fund was not doing enough to broaden the social content of its action. The latter, albeit modest, nevertheless had great potential provided the Fund's members supported it, *inter alia* in protecting social programmes during periods of adjustment by avoiding unproductive spending elsewhere. Together with the World Bank, IMF was developing a policy to identify unproductive spending in all countries, not simply those in programme relations with it, and to suggest ways of focusing better on social expenditure. That meant that the Fund was continuing to improve programme design, and it involved increased conditionality, which was inevitable. It also implied the need for better efforts to promote economic policies favourable to world growth as a whole in the industrialized nations.

13. Action to strengthen surveillance was intended, *inter alia*, to help countries to take timely action with a view to averting increased tension and exchange-rate volatility; that meant increased candour, for example, in the Fund's dialogue with the European Community about its member States' exchange-rate policies.

14. In asking countries to do better in the financial sphere, IMF bore in mind that the international donor community must be persuaded of the need for stronger means to support the programmes. Following the successful experience with the first Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF 1), in which 24 developing countries had been assisted and seemed to be progressing well, it was hoped that adequate financing would be obtained for ESAF 2 in order to assist some 30 more countries during the next few years.

15. With regard to countries in transition to a market economy, a new facility was being established, which Romania, among other countries, would be able to utilize. Multinational financing remained important, but of greater importance was the catalytic effect that the Fund could generate through its own participation. Experience had shown that the stronger a country's own efforts, the greater the international financial community's support.

16. The Fund had indeed recently changed its methods of estimating national incomes—a statistical procedure from which no policy conclusions were to be drawn. For example, the increase in the case of China simply meant that, in the past, the figure had been too low. In any case, the size of a national economy had nothing to do with eligibility; the United Kingdom, Italy and France were among countries which had qualified for assistance in the past.

17. Mr. CHOKSI (World Bank) said that the Bank had a two-track strategy for poverty alleviation. The first track was growth oriented and stressed the importance of stabilizing structural adjustment. No country had alleviated poverty without economic growth.

18. The second track was concerned with investment in the social sectors. The Bank was increasingly allocating its resources to countries which placed greater emphasis on poverty alleviation. Social sector lending was expected to rise from the current level of $3 billion to about $5 billion in the next two to three years. In addition, the Bank was becoming involved in a new area of participation and beneficiary assessment. Many decisions taken at a lower level were important in the design and implementation of Bank projects.

19. The Bank was engaged in a growing number of adjustment operations. In fact, 18 out of 32 adjustment operations in the previous year had involved social matters. However it must be noted that not all adjustment lending had to be poverty oriented.

20. An important point was the increasing conditionality that would be associated with social sectors. The Bank was reorienting its policy concerning public expenditure from higher education towards basic education and from universities towards basic health. The reorientation involved extremely difficult political decisions and Governments would have to tackle those issues if they wished to address the poverty question. The World Bank could only catalyse. It could support countries committed to reform but the most important aspect was a country's commitment to poverty alleviation.

21. The World Bank was involved in extensive cooperation with the various bodies of the United Nations system.

22. Mr. HUSSAIN (Personal Assistant to the Director-General, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said with regard to the point raised by the representative of Denmark, that the European Community, the United States, Japan and Canada had recently expressed a clear-cut commitment to conclude the Uruguay Round by the end of the current year.

23. Under GATT, parties had every right to protect their industry but the action must be in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules.

24. Mr. BERTHELOT (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that the international community had made a commitment to support the policies of the least developed countries. In any round table or consultative group, the pledges made were commensurate with the particular requests. The problem was that there was only a small number of such groups, perhaps because they were subject to considerable conditionality.

25. The trade efficiency programme was designed to provide small enterprises with information about opportunities in international trade markets and to facilitate such operations.

26. With regard to the question of requests from countries, he said that coordination efforts were being concentrated at the national level.

27. Mr. BRATINKA (Observer for the Czech Republic) said that after a century-long period of market economy, his country had been forced to live under a regime which worshipped central planning and outlawed any private ownership of the means of production. His country had passed through a period when whole groups of people had been excluded from the so-called "equal opportunities" provided under the totalitarian regime. The changes now being introduced were designed to establish institutional prerequisites for "inclusion". The key to sustained development was to liberate the creative potential that resided in each human being and to remove all barriers to cooperation among human beings.

28. At the present time, there were two necessary conditions for the well-being of any country—a viable market economy at home with a strong private sector, and integration into the world economy through stable economic and commercial ties enabling unhampered flows of goods, services, capital and knowledge.

29. With regard to the first condition, his country had used a unique method of privatization with the result that more than half of the population had become shareholders. That mass shareholding was extremely important because it gave ordinary people a stake in economic reform. With regard to the second condition, State monopoly and currency exchange rates had been allowed to reflect demand versus supply.

30. His country was prepared to cooperate and trade with any country provided it respected certain minimal standards of human rights in its internal policies and international law in its international policies.

31. It was also ready to contribute to international peace by participating in the work of the Security Council and had put forward its candidacy for membership in the Security Council in 1994-1995.

32. Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil) referred to his country's experience and said that its economic growth would open up a number of interesting possibilities for greater action in the social field in the not too distant future.

33. The need to reduce public expenditure was well understood throughout the developing world and government expenditure was being reduced in Brazil. With regard to the need for social reform, the changes being carried out in Brazil were already producing measurable results. He stressed the structural economic adjustment measures being taken by countries. In that connection, his country was deeply interested in the conclusion of the current negotiations with IMF and was eagerly awaiting that institution's visit to Brazil.

34. With regard to the World Summit, Brazil supported the idea that commitments should be made to strengthen the social pillar of international cooperation and stressed the urgent need for improved coordination of United Nations activities in that field.

35. He endorsed the need for better coordination of the macroeconomic policies of the developed countries and the fact that those policies should take account of their impact on the economies of the developing countries.

36. In conclusion, he thought that the Bureau should consider changing the format of the session by providing more time for delegates to make comments and for participants to provide replies.

37. Mr. FULCI (Italy) said his delegation fully endorsed the Danish representative's comments on behalf of the members of the European Community.

38. In recent years, a series of conflicts and emergency situations had resulted in immense human suffering, refugee flows, destruction and disastrous effects on economic and social infrastructures, particularly in Africa. Although the situation in some countries was still very serious, the prospects were better in other countries such as Mozambique and Eritrea, where the Governments and people were none the less faced with the challenging task of rehabilitation and reconstruction. In that connection, his delegation considered it essential that the highest degree of cooperation and coordination should be ensured in the efforts to support humanitarian assistance, political stabilization and economic reconstruction. The need for such cooperation was not restricted to the United Nations itself. It also concerned the relationship between the United Nations and the various international financial institutions. In that connection, he would welcome the views and advice of the representatives of those institutions, on how they viewed the prospects and how the various activities could be better integrated with a view to making the maximum use of scarce resources.

39. He endorsed the United States representative's proposal that the Security and the Economic and Social Councils should hold a joint meeting at the beginning of every year to review potential economic and social crises around the world.

40. Ms. KIMBLE (United States of America) asked how a durable partnership could be built between the appropriate United Nations agencies and international financial institutions in support of a sustainable social and economic development strategy.

41. How would it be possible to maximize the use of scarce official development resources in order to ensure that they were invested in catalytic and sustainable intervention? How would such programmes be implemented in the developing countries with a low or non-existent tax basis and low domestic savings rates? Was it realistic to expect that some military expenditure could be shifted to those urgent tasks? In that connection, all countries faced the need to manage the accelerating recurrent costs of social programmes in their public sector budgets.

42. How could indigenous non-governmental organizations be mobilized to broaden public participation at the local level to address those complex global issues? Her delegation wondered whether the priority given to investment in women could be increased to transform the lives of women at the present time and also those of later generations. Finally, what improvements were needed in IMF/World Bank coordination on structural and sectoral lending programmes to meet that broad range of sustainable development objectives? Could the United Nations country strategy for human and institutional capacity-building be better integrated with those programmes and have more complementarity with the work of the international financial institutions?

43. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that if poverty was to be eliminated in the least developed countries, the public sector would have to play a greater role.

44. He would be interested in the views of the representatives of the international financial institutions on the concept of sustainable development.

45. Ms. GILES (Australia) drew attention to the important place occupied by women in society. In general, women possessed the mediation and communicating skills without which no household or nation could function adequately.

46. Members emphasized the importance of access to health, education and training. Australia had an extremely diverse multicultural and multiracial society and had developed institutionalized consultative measures which had contributed to the success of all the social programmes that had been introduced in the past decade.

47. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that all African countries were in a cultural transitional period. Despite the activities of the international financing institutions, African nations were becoming poorer and poorer and were unable to take advantage of the system proposed by the multilateral institutions. The time had come to view the situation in Africa realistically and to respond to the steadily deteriorating economic situation.

48. Mr. CAMDESSUS (Managing Director, International Monetary Fund) said he did not believe that underdevelopment in Africa was inevitable. The continent undoubtedly had the potential for development as well as a duty to offer its people the decent life to which they were entitled. At the same time, it was true that over a large part of the continent growth was stagnant or declining. However, the situation was not the same in all African countries. There were some remarkable examples of recovery, such as Uganda, which had been able to emerge from a disastrous situation, and others, such as Ghana, which had been able to perform remarkably well, or others again, such as Mozambique, which were continuing to make progress despite conditions of civil war. On the other hand, the international financial institutions must take the particularly difficult situation of Africa into account. He believed there were four paths to follow. The first path was peace, which was a prerequisite for development. Many of Africa's difficulties were linked to internal conflict. The second path was trade. Africa had indeed suffered greatly from overt or disguised international protectionism and the African countries had the most to hope from a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The third path was an appropriate solution to the debt problem. He did not think the cancellation of all foreign debt would be appropriate but he did believe that an effort should be made to bring the debt burden to a level compatible with the financing of growth. The problem should be dealt with on a case-to-case basis and, in the case of the poorest countries, a tolerable minimum should be devised, perhaps going beyond the terms agreed in Trinidad or Toronto. However,

special arrangements for the African countries would not work unless they pursued their efforts. Lastly, he drew attention to the existence of the Structural Adjustment Facility.

49. In response to the representative of Benin, he acknowledged that scaling down the public sector could give rise to many problems. At the same time, he emphasized that the struggle against poverty could make little progress unless economies stifling under the weight of their public sector could be stabilized. Efforts must be made to release the productive capacity of the private sector. Moreover, not all the segments of the public sector provided social services: some existed for purely political reasons of job creation. Greater attention must indeed be paid to the social aspects of development, and he hoped that the World Summit would help to find a way whereby assistance could be provided for social progress while at the same time the countries concerned made every possible effort to put their economies in order.

50. In response to the United States representative, he agreed it was important that a close look be taken as soon as possible at ODA. It was true that, in the next few years, as the representative of the Russian Federation had noted, there would be very heavy competition for official resources in support of sustainable development. Development aid was not increasing but the number of beneficiaries was growing and new problems that demanded an international solution—environmental protection, control of epidemics, drug abuse—were arising every day. ODA, therefore, should be saved for use in cases where no substitute could be found. Its catalytic character should be enhanced so that more could be achieved with the same resources. The private sector should be brought in to a greater extent and the receiving countries must demonstrate their credibility and make extra efforts.

51. The PRESIDENT said a number of representatives had noted the compelling reasons put forward by the financial institutions for structural adjustment in the South. It was apparent, however, that structural adjustment would be needed in the North, especially with regard to budget deficits. He would not ask why the same pressure for structural adjustment was not exerted on the North, but he would like a technical opinion on how the North's budget deficits could be dealt with.

52. Mr. KHERBI (Observer for Algeria) said that representatives regarded the opportunity to engage in an exchange of views with the representatives of the international financial institutions on the future of their countries as extremely important. He regretted, therefore, that so little time was allowed. His delegation shared many of the ideas expressed by the Managing Director of IMF in his analysis of the complexity of the social aspect of development. It was not clear, however, how the Fund was to solve the fundamental contradiction between structural adjustment and social progress. The claim was that lasting social progress was impossible unless it was based on a sound macroeconomic policy. It was very important, therefore, for such a policy to be defined. His own country, Algeria, for example, had for decades combined considerable efforts in the social field with a tight reign on public expenditure. It was acknowledged that of all the countries of the subregion, Algeria spent the least on arms. Nevertheless, it was one of the most heavily penalized. More than 75 per cent of Algeria's export receipts went to service its international debt but it was still, nevertheless, regarded as a high-risk country.

53. He proposed as a future course that the international financial institutions and the United Nations should organize a seminar on systemic transition and development, at which all the problems involved, the harmonization of macroeconomic policies, the regulation of the international economy, and the necessary concerted action to be agreed upon among the developing countries themselves and between the developing and developed countries, could be taken up.

54. The PRESIDENT said it was his intention to propose changes in the way in which the discussion with representatives of the financial institutions was organized. The existing arrangement was not satisfactory to either of the parties.

55. Mr. CAMDESSUS (Managing Director, International Monetary Fund) said that his agency would comply gladly with any suggestions for improvement.

56. He assured the observer for Algeria that the Fund fully recognized the courageous efforts being made by his country, regretting only that they had not produced the desired results. Despite the austerity programme, the country remained encumbered with regulations of all kinds, a stifling administration, and a public sector which was still much too large. It was making a brave effort to rid itself of the burden but the forces of inertia placed tremendous obstacles in the way of a country which had a desperate need to grow. The Fund was working closely with the Algerian Government to try to find a solution, as was the World Bank.

57. In response to the specific point, he said that there was no fundamental contradiction between structural adjustment and social progress, but there was such a contradiction between non-adjustment and social development. Structural adjustment meant an effort by the country concerned to adapt its policy to the course that was followed successfully in other parts of the world. It had been hinted that the financial institutions were more insistent about the need for structural adjustment when negotiating with the developing rather than the developed countries. In fact, the Fund devoted the same attention and effort at dialogue to all countries. Indeed, it spent more time and energy trying to convince the countries of Europe or North America to balance their budgets than it did in the case of the developing countries. It did so in multilateral forums such as the Group of 7, and in bilateral consultations, in public and in private. The fact remained that those countries were not dependent on

the financial institutions for resources and the institutions, therefore, did not have as much influence with them. Nevertheless, the dialogue was useful and the industrial countries were increasingly determined to work together to put their affairs in order.

58. Mr. CHOKSI (World Bank) said that the observer for the Netherlands had suggested that social integration was a difficult area for the World Bank. He agreed that that was so, since it involved such issues as religious, cultural and ethnic discrimination as well as the increasing globalization of the market. Clearly, more than a consensus was needed. The other issues identified as possibly outside the Bank's domain were governance and human rights. Such economic issues as debureaucratization and licensing arrangements were in fact issues of governance and could be taken up by the Bank. The question of human rights was more difficult and better taken up in bilateral discussions than in a multilateral forum such as the World Bank. Furthermore, the Bank's Articles of Agreement explicitly excluded other than purely economic issues. To the extent that human rights abuses affected economic activity, the Bank did take them into consideration.

59. The Italian representative had asked what cooperation the World Bank could extend to the countries currently ravaged by war. Since the Bank's strength lay in the field of economic management, it could give help there during the emergency phase. It could, for example, redirect its lending towards rehabilitation and reconstruction.

60. The United States representative had referred to low taxation and the implementation of social expenditures, as well as possible shifts from military expenditure. Since military expenditure entailed matters of national security, it was difficult for the World Bank to become involved unless Governments specifically requested it. A shift of expenditure could, of course, imply reallocation within the social sector. For example, many Governments spent more on higher education than on primary schools. The alleviation of poverty might well demand a shift to primary education. Essentially, the Bank advocated leaving those things that the private sector could do to the private sector. That meant, in effect, redefining the role of the State, leaving it to focus more on the issues of sustainable development, the environment and human resources development.

61. In response to the question about the mobilization of indigenous non-governmental organizations, he said the Bank was trying to work in that area. The Bank's Articles of Agreement, however, required it to lend only to Governments. However, the Bank did encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations in the design and implementation of policies. In reply to the question from Australia about why it had taken so long for women's issues to come to the fore, he said that the basic reason was that it was a man's world. There were cultural issues involved, but the Bank was nevertheless working on the matter and Governments were taking women's issues more seriously. A conference on women's issues was to be held in Beijing in 1995, and the World Bank was to prepare a special study on women with a view to heightening awareness. In regard to the questions on Africa raised by the representative of Guinea, he said that the World Bank fully shared the views expressed by the Managing Director of IMF.

62. Mr. HUSSAIN (Personal Assistant to the Director-General, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said that in the case of Africa it was necessary to stress the vital importance of technical cooperation, particularly from the GATT aspect. Trade policies had become very complex and the Uruguay Round itself was no less so. A number of African countries were seeking to integrate themselves into the GATT system and some were introducing reforms without any awareness of the exact contractual environment in which those reforms were being undertaken. There was a desperate need for accurate information, especially in regard to the forthcoming implementation phase of the Uruguay Round. The African countries would be treated flexibly within GATT, but it was absolutely imperative for them to know their rights within the system. Accordingly, technical cooperation from GATT would need to have a dimension of its own and its budgetary implications would have to be examined, both in cooperation with other agencies and within the organizational structure of GATT.

63. As far as sustainable development was concerned, he said again that work had been intensified in GATT on matters relating to trade and the environment and to the promotion of sustainable development. The members of GATT were expected to review the follow-up to UNCED by the end of 1993 and the concept of sustainable development and the way in which the future role of GATT was expected to evolve would then become much clearer.

64. Mr. BERTHELOT (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said, in response to the point made by Brazil, that he had no miracle machinery to propose to bring about an immediate solution. The participation of the Managing Director of IMF in the deliberations of the Group of 7 was a useful exercise, as was the current high-level meeting of the Council. The existence of forums in which a dialogue could be held on the economic policies of countries and the impact of the international economic environment on those policies was undoubtedly valuable. Over the past year, discussions had been held in UNCTAD which had demonstrated the complexity of the problems involved, showing what was general and what was specific, as well as the room for manoeuvre of the various countries. Much had been said about the harmonization of policy. In his view, there was a limit to that process. The tendency of international debate to lead to a convergence of policies had its limitations. In regard to the point raised by Benin, he agreed that it was necessary to know how far specific countries were affected by their debt burden and for an effort to be made to reduce that burden to a tolerable proportion.

65. Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland) associated himself with the remarks made by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Community and with the questions he had asked. Since there had been several references to the problems of the countries in transition, both by delegations and by the representatives of the financial institutions, he wished to make two points in that regard.

66. In the case of Poland, the first positive results of the process of economic transformation were currently being witnessed. At the same time, however, high social costs were resulting from the stabilization programme. The same was true of all the countries of the region that were in transition. Accordingly, more attention needed to be devoted to those problems by individual Governments and by the international financial institutions. While he agreed that economic restructuring rather than recession should be the major concern, the Governments involved must not underestimate their responsibility for the fate of the increasing number of jobless, an increase which might well jeopardize social and political stability. Accordingly, careful attention should be paid to the possibility of a more active employment policy, while leaving stabilization as the main goal.

67. There was no magic formula for a successful transformation and simple analogies or direct comparisons with other regions such as Latin America could be misleading. He emphasized that the geographical dimension and scale of the crisis resulting from the collapse of communism in all the countries of the region meant that those countries must deal with one of the greatest social and economic disasters of the age, even compared with the great depression of the 1930s. He trusted that special attention would be paid and coordinated international assistance given to all the countries undergoing systemic transformation.

68. Mr. SAMUELSSON (Observer for Sweden) asked when he would have an opportunity to make a statement on reforms of the United Nations in the context of international economic cooperation, a subject to which his Government attached great importance.

69. Representatives of the international financial institutions had referred to the complementary roles of the United Nations and the institutions in the economic and social fields, and the World Bank representative had indicated that the Bank wished to see a strong United Nations. In view, however, of the declining United Nations share in dwindling development funds, how could it be enabled to compete more effectively for available resources, and what role could reforms play in that regard?

70. The PRESIDENT, replying to the Observer for Sweden's first question, said that the most appropriate occasion for him to make his statement would be under the agenda item on operational activities for development.

71. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt) said that the duration of the structural adjustment process varied considerably from one developing country to another. Failure to integrate the social dimension fully in structural adjustment programmes during the 1970s and 1980s had led to rioting in some countries. Such consequences might be avoided if adjustment programmes were stretched over longer periods. He would welcome the comments of representatives of the institutions on that point.

72. Structural adjustments were needed in the North as well as in the South, particularly with regard to industry and trade liberalization, and the reduction and management of fiscal deficits. How, he asked, could GATT and IMF coordinate and synchronize their policies so as to act more effectively in that regard, especially in the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and in multilateral surveillance, which should be extended to cover developed as well as developing countries?

73. Social issues were universal in nature and approaches to them had to be compatible with the specificities of different countries. He would welcome the comments of representatives of the institutions on that matter, which was certain to be a major issue at the 1995 Summit, as it had been at the World Conference on Human Rights, recently held in Vienna.

74. Mr. MA'ARUF (Malaysia) said that progress on the financing of Agenda 21 and of the restructuring of the Global Environment Facility had been disappointing. Would the World Bank representative comment on that situation and the failure of the commitments of developed economies to meet expectations?

75. The prolonged depression of commodity prices persisted in spite of World Bank predictions of a minor recovery and was recognized as a main cause of third-world indebtedness. Three possible solutions to that situation were: the elimination of farm subsidies in developed countries, the dismantling of all forms of trade restrictions on commodities, and the conclusion of fair commodity agreements. Could any representative of the institutions comment on those solutions?

76. Global policy on intellectual property rights must, while promoting investment in research and development and encouraging creativity and innovation, avoid becoming so rigid and restrictive as to create technology monopolies and cartels. Access to new and emerging technologies by developing countries must be facilitated through an appropriate framework which would not place undue burdens on them. Was such a framework under consideration?

77. Mr. MIYET (France) said that the references that had been made during the discussion to the Uruguay Round and the proposals made by the Managing Director of IMF for the 1995 Summit were relevant to the question of the present economic crisis in the developing countries. He would welcome the comments of

representatives of GATT and IMF on the question of the relation between freedom of trade and fluctuations in exchange rates, which were increasingly out of step and were a constant impediment to trade. Such fluctuations in no way reflected economic realities but were purely speculative in nature.

78. A number of leading economists had commented on the lack of close cooperation between IMF and GATT. Some had gone so far as to suggest that the two institutions should be merged. That was a matter on which he would welcome the reactions of the representatives of the two institutions.

79. He would also welcome the comments of representatives of the World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD and GATT on the problems facing the economies in transition from collective to completely liberal systems. Should the transition be abrupt or should it be gradual? Should some subsidies be temporarily retained or should there be an immediate move to a fully open market?

80. He would like to hear the UNCTAD representative's views on the relation between trading blocs and liberalization. OECD had made very high estimates of the financial advantages that would accrue from a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Was trade liberalization necessarily the right solution for the developing countries and the countries in transition as a whole, or would a more self-centred policy, such as had been pursued without advantage by many developed countries during the past century, prove more beneficial to them? Perhaps some balance should be struck between the two extreme solutions.

81. The PRESIDENT said that he believed it would be useful for the Council to hear the reactions of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis before the representatives of the institutions replied to the questions that had been asked.

82. Mr. MILLERON (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) said that of the three basic factors—the political, the economic and the social—the discussion had concentrated upon the relationship between the two latter. It had taken place at a time when in the opening words of the *World Economic Survey 1993* (E/1993/60), the world economy remained "listless". The discussion could be considered a contribution to the rebuilding of confidence, the lack of which was considered by some to be at the root of current difficulties. What had initially been a technical turn in economies had thus been given a wider application. There was general agreement on the need for economic and social regulation, but it had to be more clearly defined than was the case at present. Among the factors that were agreed to contribute to its success were: a clear macroeconomic policy, and the recognition of the need to look further ahead in formulating monetary policies at a time when room for budgetary manoeuvre was very restricted. It had been argued that multilateral negotiations on trade liberalization remained a prerequisite for global development, and that the social dimension was of great importance not only as an auxiliary element in the regulatory process but as a fully integrated component of it. Its contribution to economic efficiency had also been emphasized. The benefits had once again been emphasized of increased levels of savings and investment, improved investment practices, higher productivity, price restraint, and, accompanying all these, special measures on behalf of the weakest and least advantaged. It had also been pointed out that there was perhaps a lesson to be learnt by the North from the South as far as regulation was concerned. As to public expenditure, it had to be borne in mind that it had a positive side, for example when it took the form of investment in human resources. A whole series of points had been made relating to inequality, which manifested itself not only in levels of income but also in access to opportunities and in respect of different categories of persons, the most obvious case being the situation of women. The geographical aspect was also one that must not be neglected. One of the major preoccupations of the poor and the weak was uncertainty as to the morrow. It must be one of the objectives of preparations for the 1995 Summit to seek means of reducing that uncertainty.

83. Mr. CHOKSI (World Bank), replying to a question by the representative of Malaysia, said that there were two mechanisms for financing environmental programmes: national programmes were financed by Bank and IDA lending, the sums involved being of the order of one to two billion dollars per year; the Global Environment Facility had required 3 billion dollars for its first phase, and it had recently been agreed that approximately the same sum should be sought for the second phase.

84. A number of delegations had spoken about stabilization and adjustment programmes, and the observer for Egypt had raised the question of their duration. The fact was that no one knew in advance how long structural adjustment would take. In the case of Chile, for example, benefits had been seen after 10 to 15 years, but there were countries of the North that were still engaged in structural adjustments of various kinds. The process was in many ways a continuing one. Unfortunately it was not an option; countries would have to adjust. The only question was whether the adjustment would be orderly and managed or chaotic, which could lead to hyperinflation. Experience had also shown that the longer the delay in making the necessary adjustments, the more difficult they became both economically and politically. It was true that during the 1980s the focus of both the international financial institutions and countries had been much more on stabilization, adjustment and debt, and social and environmental issues, and even issues of physical infrastructure had been pushed into the background. Tremendous cuts had been made in social and environmental expenditures, largely because they were the easiest to make politically. It was easier to cut social expenditure because the poor had no voice and much more difficult to close down major public sector plants

where organized labour could make its voice heard. The consequence was that the adjustment period of the 1980s had had undoubted negative social effects. On the other hand, the positive aspect was that tremendous economic gains had been made. Many countries had made major economic reforms and stabilization had been achieved in most of Latin America where the situation had been very grave. In the countries of the former Soviet Union, the process was in course. He believed that to secure those economic gains, countries and the international financial institutions must henceforth place the emphasis on social and environmental issues, including the status and role of women, and the participation of local people, who were the ultimate clients of such aid. In that context, he believed that the World Summit would be timely, and he congratulated the President and his close associates on taking the initiative to place the Summit on the world agenda. As he had previously stated, the Bank would participate actively in the Summit. It was absolutely essential to place the focus on poverty during the 1990s, not only for humanitarian reasons but also because it was vital to secure the gains made with such pain in the 1980s. Unless they were secured, the progress made might over a period of time be reversed.

85. Mr. HUSSAIN (Personal Assistant to the Director-General, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) agreed with the Egyptian representative that structural adjustment should apply to developed as well as developing countries, and that the GATT Trade Policy Review Mechanism was the ideal means of monitoring the policies of both developed and developing countries. Monitoring should be made as rigorous as possible to ensure that the conclusions reached were fully observed and that policies evolved in accordance with GATT rules and principles.

86. As far as structural adjustment in general was concerned, it could be most affectively achieved by a return to GATT rules and principles. In the case of textiles, for example, selective managed trade had been conducted over a period of 40 years. The initial grounds had been that the importing countries (in this particular case the developing countries) required a breathing space in order to adjust to competition from the developing exporting countries. It could be said that after 40 years of managed trade no solution of the key trade problems had been found. A measure that had been intended as a damage-limitation exercise had been extended to agriculture, semi-conductors, machine tools and a variety of other industrial sectors. The proliferation of managed trade arrangements had been on a scale that threatened the very existence of the main system of rules and principles. It was indeed to effect a return to that system that the Uruguay Round had been launched.

87. He agreed with the representative of Malaysia that the Intellectual Property Rights Agreement should not be rigid, or thwart the efforts of the developing countries. Access to technology should be facilitated. He believed an agreement on precisely those lines already existed in the draft final act of the Round, the details of which remained to be negotiated.

88. He agreed with the French representative that the Uruguay Round was a factor in the economic recession in the developed countries, which was why it was particularly urgent that the Round should be brought to a conclusion and not allowed to drift on. The only concrete multilateral step the international community could take to emerge from the recession through non-inflationary growth was to conclude the Round as speedily as possible. He also agreed with the French representative on the importance of the relation between freedom of trade and fluctuating exchange rates. That was a matter which had been extensively discussed in GATT and continued to be one of the burning issues before it. He wished, however, to appeal to all concerned not to introduce further matters that would overload the GATT negotiating agenda and further delay a conclusion of the Round. With regard to the economies in transition, his experience had been that they were all turning to GATT—Hungary, Poland and Romania, for example, were all re-negotiating their protocols. What those countries were looking to was the world market, and they did not wish to move from one managed economy situation to another. Their objectives were openness, liberalism, predictability and certainty, which could only be found in the international trading environment. Above all they sought the opportunity to compete, which was why they were among the staunchest supporters of the Uruguay Round and GATT.

89. Mr. BERTHELOT (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) noted that a number of speakers had referred to the complementarity of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

90. The United Nations enjoyed the advantage of offering an opportunity to discuss policies and debate ideas in a public setting without the constraint of tangible outcomes in the form of loans or grants to inhibit discussion. The United Nations also provided an environment in which a maturer understanding could be formed of problems and situations, standards could be laid down, a convergence of policies achieved and rules established. The technical assistance activities of the organization only came in at a later stage in order to support countries to implement policies which they found acceptable or had decided upon for themselves. The United Nations had a very specific role to play.

91. With regard to the possibility of merging the international financial institutions with the United Nations, it was always tempting to group related problems under a single administration in the expectation that they would be dealt with more effectively and in a more coordinated way. In fact, however, Governments still found it advisable to keep separate ministries of finance and trade and various other activities although the matters they dealt with were clearly interrelated. He doubted whether any institution which did not reflect the ministerial structure of countries would be genuinely efficient.

92. With regard to the questions raised by the representative of Malaysia concerning commodities, he said that some of the provisions that were under negotiation in the Uruguay Round were excellent, particularly those regarding the dismantling of some obstacles to the open market and the reduction of subsidies. There were also provisions on the speed at which they would be introduced in countries that were heavily dependent on food imports and required a longer period to effect adjustments. He believed that, from the point of view of the developing countries, the draft final act of the Round marked a considerable advance.

93. In order to enhance countries' capacity to control the risks involved in commodity market operations, it was important that they should endeavour to acquaint themselves more fully with the way the markets operated so that they could become more effective actors in them. If there had to be product agreements, they should be confined to a very limited number of products. Their major weakness at present was more a lack of agreement between producers than a lack of good will on the part of consumers.

94. As to the formation of trading blocs referred to by the French representative, experience showed that no regional blocs of developing countries had achieved any significant success. They had not contributed to any substantial enlargement of internal markets or facilitated the exchange of investments. Possible emerging exceptions were the Association of South-East Asian Nations and MERCOSUR, the Southern Cone Common Market, but the basic question was the attitude of other countries to the existing big blocs—the North American Market, the European Community and, to a certain extent, Japan—where there were strategic choices which he could not at present discuss, facing the countries concerned.

95. The PRESIDENT said that, interesting and helpful as the discussion had been during the segment, he regretted the necessity of limiting the time available to speakers, and hoped that a more efficient arrangement could be devised for conducting the question and answer component of the segment in future.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

16th meeting

Wednesday, 30 June 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.16

AGENDA ITEM 2

World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development (*continued**)

Address by the Secretary-General

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the development imperative was one of the key principles guiding him in the discharge of his office. He would judge his success largely by the contribution he managed to make to the emergence of a new development policy. In that spirit he had undertaken a reshaping of the Organization in the economic and social spheres and was resolved to pursue the thinking that would lead to the programme of action for development, which would set out principles and action-oriented guidelines. The challenge was to invent an innovative economic and social policy.

2. The political, the economic and the social were three sides of a golden triangle whose components were strongly interactive.

3. With regard to the linkage between the political and the social, it was clear that a stable political environment was the necessary condition of harmonious social development. Social development demanded political action, particularly in legislative and regulatory matters. A State which clung to inequality and privilege, did not encourage social integration and permitted large-scale marginalization faced the threat of social upheaval.

4. The links between the economic and the social were equally important. Many social problems impinged on economic development. Social security systems had long been a major burden on the industrialized countries' economies. The issue was arising in the countries in transition where the human cost of economic take-off

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* Resumed from the 13th meeting.

could be heavy and a safety net would have to be provided for the population groups most vulnerable to the effects of transition. In developing countries, the early stages of economic development created social problems that demanded prompt solution. Social needs could not be satisfied in countries not undergoing economic development or excluded from the process.

5. Social development was a major challenge. In tackling it the principle of subsidiarity was important. The United Nations was not called upon to define for the members of the international community the social welfare arrangements to be made available for individuals or communities. On the other hand some social questions undoubtedly had an international dimension. Solidarity also needed to be envisaged at the international level. With regard to priorities, there were to his mind three major issues: redistribution, integration and protection.

6. The idea of redistribution needed to be encouraged. It was a matter of equity. But redistribution did not consist simply in the transfer of a more or less substantial share of existing advantages to the underprivileged. Transfers of that kind could be counterproductive. Transfers had to be related to the expansion of production. Direct action was of course needed to help the most vulnerable, but the emphasis should be on broad programmes to increase the wealth available, which would indirectly benefit the underprivileged. That should be the guiding principle in the matter of social development and methods of redistribution. Many Governments favoured that approach, which should be adopted internationally.

7. Integration was the answer to the growing and acceptable spread of marginalization. Employment was an essential factor. Unemployment was a formidable cause of marginalization and should be the subject of extensive research to fill the many gaps in knowledge of its ramifications. Among the areas that should be explored were the potentialities of more job-intensive growth, the expansion of rural employment and the conversion of obsolete industries. The key to integration was the individual's sense of belonging. The weakness of hard line liberal thinking was its failure to take that fact into account.

8. Protection had to provide a response to the vulnerabilities that afflicted communities and individuals, nationally and internationally. Economic and social progress aimed at the reduction of vulnerability. That was why the United Nations had from the beginning been engaged in far-reaching humanitarian activities. But the issues were manifold. They ranged from State responsibility for major industrial hazards to action in the field of social welfare. Should the social democratic model of generalized social protection be reviewed? When resources were scanty, should social welfare be limited to the most underprivileged—minorities, indigenous populations, women and children?

9. The tasks were daunting and called for rethinking of the meaning of social development and economic progress and the recasting of institutions if the 1995 World Summit was to succeed.

10. The process of rethinking, coordination and recasting of institutions must start in the Economic and Social Council. Some measures to strengthen its role had been taken in 1992 and a second series of reforms had been set in motion, involving the Council and the General Assembly. The aim was to give the Council the means to carry out its leadership role in regard to economic and social policy under the Charter of the United Nations. Lines of communication with the Assembly needed to be clarified and streamlined, as did its relationship with its subsidiary bodies. After months of negotiation, little or no progress had been achieved, although reform of the intergovernmental machinery was both necessary and overdue. The revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and the restructuring of the Organization must be put back on track. In 1992, the Secretary-General had suggested that the Council should be invited to provide reports to the Security Council of economic and social developments which, in the Council's view, represented threats to international peace and security. He had also suggested that the Council should introduce a high-level inter-sessional mechanism to respond in a timely manner to new developments. He hoped those suggestions would receive the Council's attention.[1]

11. Following UNCED the Commission on Sustainable Development had been set up as a functional commission of the Council and had recently held its first session. He had appointed the members of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, to which he looked for new ideas and options for constructive cooperation.

12. The end of the cold war had transformed the dynamics of international diplomacy and security and there had been changes in political regimes accompanied by an increase in ethnic and religious tensions. At the same time, economic changes had accelerated. Structural shifts were taking place in virtually every country as a result of new technologies, changes in demand and production patterns and globalization of the economy. The greatest social change came from the revolution in communications.

13. A stable economy and a stable political order could not be built in an unstable society. Social development must be seen as the basis of all development. The basic objective of social development was to redress deprivation in the broadest sense. In the economic sphere, deprivation manifested itself as poverty, in politics as marginalization, in social relations as discrimination, in culture as rootlessness and in ecology as vulnerability.

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[1] A/47/1, paras. 82 and 83.

14. In a world in which 1.3 billion people lived in poverty, the outcome of the World Summit should be a global compact for the elimination of poverty. The first step was to revive world growth. Revived growth must be accompanied by a reduction in unemployment and by measures to enhance the capacity of poor and unemployed people and poor countries to participate in the growth process. That meant investment in education and training and in health care, improved access to productive resources and technologies, and measures to prevent the exploitation of unorganized workers. The phrase "growth with equity" must be given practical expression.

15. The other dimensions of deprivation—marginalization, discrimination, rootlessness and vulnerability—were more complex and could not be tackled by purely economic measures. Democratization and participation were crucial. The first most frequently involved freedom of expression in the media. The second involved participation in decision-making, particularly at local levels, and helped ensure that the interests of the poor were taken into account. Many of the new democracies in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America faced a dilemma. They were intent on protecting and enhancing the gains from democratization, but the economic restructuring programmes they had to implement involved harsh decisions which hurt large sections of the population. The resulting social unrest put democracy at risk and also the economic objectives of restructuring. Economic policy prescriptions must pay as much attention to social and political matters as to economic parameters.

16. Democratization and decentralization were closely linked, especially in pluralistic societies susceptible to ethnic or religious tensions. The strength of a nation depended on the sense of belonging of the communities it brought together. More needed to be done to devolve power and responsibility to the institutions of civil society in the broadest sense, not only to political institutions but to local authorities, trade unions and voluntary associations for the self-regulation of economic activity and self-management of schools, hospitals and other community facilities. The best way to help societies cope with deprivation was to foster a spirit of inclusiveness and tolerance. That was what he meant by social integration, the third core issue before the Summit. In many countries a culture of tolerance, built up over decades or even centuries, already existed. There were others where political and economic change and population movements had undermined traditional institutions, and where new structures of authority and loyalties had to be built in a spirit of inclusiveness and tolerance.

17. The United Nations was by its very essence universal, global and inclusive. It was made up of sovereign States, but was concerned with securing the well-being of individuals. There was nothing contradictory in that. The 1995 World Summit would be the fourth in a series of five landmark conferences organized by the United Nations in the 1990s, all making people the central concern of the Organization. The conferences should promote awareness, generate ideas and secure new commitments. They should help focus attention on key issues and ensure the latter received higher priority in national and international decision-making. That was, he hoped, the role the Council would assign to the World Summit.

18. Detlev Graf zu RANTZAU (Germany) said that there were wide differences in the world's social problems and the social policy instruments adopted to tackle them, and that many States still lacked a modern social policy. Although no uniform solution could be envisaged for all cases, objectives could be shared by all countries, international institutions and the world community. Many industrial countries had established relatively advanced social security systems, but each State must determine its own strategy in line with its history and its national characteristics. The establishment of social systems underlined the links between economic and social progress.

19. Assistance provided by the industrialized countries and international institutions should help countries to help themselves. The crucial question was whether a State offered its citizens social structures which allowed scope for their creativity. One of the factors in poverty alleviation was the opening of markets and the establishment of a world economic and social order. In the context of that order, wherever competition was encouraged, prices determined by market forces, industrial freedom protected and ownership safeguarded, conditions were right for the free development of the individual in economic life. That assumed that national resources were efficiently used to further the country's social and economic development.

20. Measures to cope with poverty included the provision of food security, preventive health care and support for self-help. Efforts must also be made to control population growth. At the same time, the ethical and moral obligation to provide humanitarian assistance should be complied with.

21. Vocational training and retraining were fundamental requirements for self-sustaining social development and investment in training was essential. Self-help meant the development of human capital by equipping people with the capacity to help themselves.

22. It was increasingly realized that sound development was impossible without respect for human rights and democratic political structures. Participation in political life was fundamental to a pluralist society. Preventing people from organizing and putting forward their interests was tantamount to forbidding them to develop, condemning them to apathy and social inertia and jeopardizing the whole country's development. The rule of law was vital. In the long term, an economic system which enabled people to organize their lives in freedom and prosperity was only possible in a social and democratic State under the rule of law.

23. One of the World Summit's encouraging aspects was the fact that IMF, the World Bank and regional banks recognized that social development could not be divorced from economic development and political stability and were already following policies along those lines. In structural adjustment programmes, equal priority must be given to concomitant social measures, as the Managing Director of IMF had said at the 1991 International Labour Conference. International organizations must coordinate their activities and programmes, with ILO making a decisive contribution as the specialized agency responsible for social and employment policy. ILO could count on Germany's firm support.

24. The World Summit could only be a forum for seeking solutions. It could not structure the process, but it could provide the political impetus and will for the settlement of social conflicts by peaceful means in a spirit of partnership. If the less developed countries wished to make economic progress, they must provide domestic conditions conducive to private investment and, thus, to job creation and a higher standard of living.

25. The transition of developing countries and the countries of central and eastern Europe to a market economy could succeed only if a balance was established from the outset between economic structural adjustment and social planning. The existence of free trade unions and independent employers' associations made for the recognition of economic and of social interests on an equal footing. In many economies there was commendable collaboration between both sides of industry, which was a safeguard for prosperity and social peace. Genuine participation in determining economic and working conditions required that workers and employers should enjoy freedom of association and trade-union freedom.

26. The concomitant social measures should be viewed not as an unproductive cost but as a stabilizing factor that promoted productivity. In implementing reconstruction programmes, their social effects had to be taken into account without undermining the process itself. One solution would be to limit programmes to certain economic parameters and undertake basic changes gradually, for example, with regard to food. Another solution would be to incorporate ancillary social measures in programmes, such as unemployment insurance, job policies, vocational retraining and support for new enterprises. It had been found that measures of that sort made privatization measures acceptable. The World Summit would provide an opportunity for agreement on the guidelines to be followed.

27. Mr. MIYET (France) outlined the reasons his country supported the Summit initiative and the new directions it hoped would emerge during the preparatory process at the conference itself and in the course of follow-up.

28. The economic crisis in some countries in recent years had highlighted social problems and the need for a global response. At the same time the international community's growing demands were drawing attention to shortcomings of thinking and action in social matters. Although the major development bodies were taking the social aspects into account, their piecemeal responses were wholly inadequate. A Copernican revolution was needed. The social situation should not be seen as the outcome of economics but as the starting-point, which assumed the establishment of clear objectives. In that context, the three core issues set out in General Assembly resolution 47/92 would provide an acceptable substitute.

29. The first issue was social integration. It ought not to be defined negatively, as the prevention of marginalization, for example. It was necessary to move upstream, to think, not in terms of preventing social disintegration but in terms of strengthening social cohesion. The concept must be defined by the determining factors, in other words the political environment. Social cohesion was inconceivable without a minimum of democratic rules and practices and recognition of the civil, political and economic rights of the citizen. The economic environment, too, was a precondition. Social cohesion was a nullity in a country where one class, category, caste or ethnic group wielded exclusive economic power over the rest of the population.

30. What could the United Nations do in a matter which essentially concerned the redistribution of wealth within a society? He hoped the Summit would produce specific proposals, however difficult that might be, since the issue was vital to social cohesion. To do so, the Summit would need to consider the social repercussions of decisions by Governments and major financial and economic bodies. Although economic reconstruction was legitimate, the remedies proposed, and sometimes imposed, by the great financial institutions ought to take into account the social consequences of readjustments.

31. Another important element of social cohesion was the preservation of markers (family, religious, cultural etc.) on which individuals relied. In the headlong economic changes experienced by traditional societies, the markers tended to be lost or blurred. He was not advocating an impossible return to outworn forms of economic and social life. Indeed the reverse was called for. The point was to follow the example of outstanding successes, benefit from the deliberations prompted by the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and restore the cultural dimension of social cohesion. The Summit should be clear on that point. Those considerations did not provide justification for schemes proposing, in the name of social cohesion, to reintroduce or promote political, social and economic systems that oppressed the individual and violated human rights. Nor could social cohesion be invoked as a reason for rejecting the demands of unavoidable modernization.

32. The second core issue was poverty alleviation. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) showed that, although the proportion of the poor with respect to the to-

tal population had fallen in some regions in the 1980s, the proportion had increased in the countries in transition, and pockets of poverty persisted in the more prosperous economies of the North, a fact the Secretary-General seemingly underestimated. Those pockets of poverty could not be compared, of course, with the extreme deprivation experienced in other societies. But the notion of poverty was relative and in any society poverty, whatever its special features, was cause for concern at the social level.

33. Despite the comprehensive social safety nets available, poverty was increasing, as was marginalization. It was becoming more and more difficult to reach people who had lost hope and were even beyond the margin of welfare schemes. The resulting hardship was psychological as well as physical.

34. In that connection a number of far-reaching economic questions had to be faced. The overall picture was uneven. Many developing regions were resuming economic growth, whereas the most developed countries, which were more open to outside influences, were sunk in recession. In that context the need for voluntary international action to promote economic growth should be reaffirmed. There again, as in the question of social cohesion, the problem of distribution of wealth arose. It had been proposed that the Summit should consider a convention on the prevention of poverty. A great many texts already existed, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and it was by no means certain that new obligations would be better respected.

35. Perhaps a more flexible measure ought to be considered. States which accepted it would make specific commitments to reduce particular aspects of poverty in their countries, taking into account their circumstances. The international community, for its part, would undertake to provide financial, educational and other support. The support would be embodied in a firm commitment with predetermined benchmarks to permit monitoring.

36. The Summit ought to give particular attention to extreme poverty, which beset all societies, albeit in a different way in each case.

37. The third core issue would be the expansion of productive employment. The qualifier might be seen as a luxury in the present circumstances. The question was how to satisfy the immense need for jobs. It might be useful to try a new approach. Employment was usually seen as a purely economic element, linked to growth. In the real world, growth was not conducive to job creation. In the circumstances, the linkages between technological advances and jobs needed to be considered. One approach might be to evaluate the impact on jobs of each technological discovery or innovation. What was being done in the case of the environment could equally well be applied in social matters. That type of approach could only be considered at the international level.

38. It ought also to be possible to make recommendations for the preservation of existing jobs, especially in rural areas, whether in agriculture or in small and medium rural enterprises. The Summit should draw lessons from the breakneck and even brutal adjustment programmes being pursued in some countries in transition.

39. The challenges were formidable, but the three issues were closely linked and could be tackled together. He had indicated some possible approaches. It might also be useful to lay down some rules. For example, topics already being discussed in other United Nations forums should be avoided. In considering issues, priority should be given to the social aspects and the emphasis should be on the formulation of practical solutions.

40. Consideration might also be given to the follow-up of commitments assumed. The institutional question was unavoidable, since the United Nations paid insufficient attention to social problems and was wedded to a sectoral approach (women, youth, the handicapped, drugs, and so on). The inevitable result was piecemeal solutions and the scattering of limited resources. In that area too, an innovative approach was called for, in the light of the competence and know-how of the major agencies.

41. Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil) said that the links between the economic and social aspects of development had been recognized, but caution was needed in considering the relationship between social and economic difficulties and the maintenance of international peace and security. Although there could be no political peace without social peace, that general principle should not be construed as a limitation on international cooperation for development. Development must be pursued for its own sake as a means of preventing economic and social deprivation.

42. In international forums, more and more was being heard about military and non-military threats to international peace and security. The non-military threats appeared to be those for which coercive action was not required. Coercive action by the Security Council should be envisaged as a last resort after all peaceful methods of settlement of disputes had been exhausted. In addition, the institutional balance between the General Assembly and the Security Council must be kept.

43. If the Economic and Social Council were to deal with non-military threats—in other words, those stemming from social and economic causes—it should be careful to avoid action that might be interpreted as jeopardizing the functions assigned to the General Assembly. Article 14 of the Charter of the United Nations provided that the General Assembly might recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deemed likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations. The Charter thus foresaw an adequate mechanism with which to address economic and social situations that might have a bearing on international peace and security.

44. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/92, had highlighted three core issues that merited universal concern. The question of social integration was of particular relevance. Poverty reduction and expansion of employment in their turn sought to deal with root causes. Although a great deal of attention had centred on the three issues, Brazil wished to reaffirm the importance of the other objectives of the Summit, listed in paragraph 5 of the resolution. They established a very clear balance between the need for appropriate national policies and strengthened international cooperation, reflecting the priorities of developed and developing countries.

45. His delegation believed great benefit would be derived from the high-level segment if the session provided a strong political impetus to the Summit and its preparatory process. With that impetus, the Summit could become a global undertaking to reduce the pressure of population growth and migration, the pressure on natural resources and the environment, and the pressure of mass poverty.

46. Commenting on the interrelationship between economic and social development, he said that the whole question of development merited an integrated and comprehensive approach. While important strides had been made at the United Nations through a number of initiatives and agreements, it was cause for concern that the approach was piecemeal. The need for an integrated approach, acknowledged in General Assembly resolution 47/92, had been reaffirmed in resolution 47/181 on an agenda for development. That resolution sought to provide a unifying and integrating focus to consideration of the multiple issues within the development debate.

47. In view of the ambitious nature of the undertaking, it was easy to understand the difficulties of presenting the comprehensive report requested to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. He looked forward however to receiving the outline. The agenda for development should be a framework that would identify what had been agreed upon, what had and had not been implemented, the obstacles encountered and means of overcoming them; identify areas where further negotiations were required and the appropriate negotiating forums; and give a political impetus to international cooperation for development.

48. Resolution 47/181 also called for enhancement of the United Nations relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions. That was particularly important at a time when preparations for the World Summit were being initiated and the Bretton Woods institutions had demonstrated a new awareness of the imperatives of social development.

49. His delegation hoped the opportunity would be seized to give a political message to the World Summit that the objectives agreed upon demanded a non-confrontational approach which in the last analysis must be carried through to the broader concept of an agenda for development.

50. Mr. JIN Yongjian (China) said that, although the end of the cold war had raised hopes, the world was still far from tranquil, and many previously hidden contradictions had surfaced. Some countries and regions were beset with strife that had caused social unrest, dire poverty and enormous loss of life and property. At the same time, international competition had become increasingly fierce and the external economic environment of developing countries had deteriorated. The difficulties facing the developing countries had seriously impeded their economic and social development and further widened the North-South gap. The vast majority of developing countries demanded the eradication of trade protectionism, easing of the debt burden, increased aid and the establishment of a fair and rational new international order. World peace, national development, social progress, economic prosperity and improved living standards had become universal aspirations.

51. In view of the acuteness of the problem of social development, the decision to convene the World Summit was timely and necessary. China supported the decision and looked forward to a fruitful conclusion of the Summit. In that connection he proposed that the Summit should focus on questions of common concern to all countries, paying special attention to the serious economic and social problems of the developing world. A peaceful, stable international environment and an international economic order based on mutual benefit and cooperation were vital to the social development of all countries. The Government's functions of giving guidance to social development should be strengthened with a view to the gradual establishment of a mechanism for social progress and economic growth. Fair distribution of resources must be one of the essential guidelines for social development. Effective international cooperation, based on equality and mutual benefit, was essential and should respect a people's choice of political system and mode of economic development. Social development should be the starting-point and the goal of economic growth. The United Nations system should give priority to the developing countries' needs, and the developed countries should assume more obligations in that regard, since that was the only way to achieve the common development of all countries and to promote civilization and the progress of human society.

52. Sound preparation was essential to the Summit's success. During the preparations, particular attention should be paid to the developing countries' views and suggestions. The relevant United Nations bodies had done a great deal of useful work over the years, under their respective mandates to promote world economic development and social progress as well as international cooperation. His delegation hoped they would participate in the preparatory process. In the meantime, all countries should adopt measures and draw up plans in preparation for the Summit.

53. The Chinese Government attached great importance to social development. China was a populous developing country and it had always been an arduous task

to achieve economic development while consistently raising people's living standards. China enjoyed political and social stability, rapid economic growth and marked social progress. That in itself was a major contribution to world peace and security. The Chinese Government was ready to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations system and with other countries in social development, so as to contribute to the progress of mankind.

54. Mr. HO (Republic of Korea) said that, despite recent positive changes, which had raised expectations that the international community would be able to give more attention to economic and social issues, the world economic and social situation was still grim. Poverty persisted in many third world countries where development strategies had failed to produce the desired results. With the new phenomenon of "jobless growth" in developed and developing countries, unemployment remained a serious challenge and the gap between rich and poor continued to widen. Deprivation and exclusion were causing dissatisfaction within and among societies, leading to conflicts and civil strife.

55. His delegation accordingly welcomed the General Assembly's decision to convene a world summit for social development. The broad support of Member States proved that the international community was sincere and resolute in its efforts to deal with urgent social issues. The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights had been a step forward in the continuing search for social justice and its results should be incorporated in the goals of the World Summit.

56. As for social development itself, the close interrelationship between economic and social progress should be further emphasized. Experience had shown that economic growth did not necessarily mean social advancement. Well-designed and targeted State intervention was often necessary to ensure balanced development and make up for market failures. The concept of people-centred development, accepted by the international community, fitted well with the goals of social development, which were to achieve higher living standards and greater equality of opportunities, and to secure conditions in which individuals could control their own lives. It was gratifying that human development had become a core theme in the development programmes of the United Nations system.

57. Vigorous and sustained economic growth was clearly an essential condition for poverty reduction. It was encouraging that United Nations development agencies had already taken up poverty elimination as one of their priorities. While a concerted effort was needed to tackle poverty directly, more attention should be paid to the link between population growth and poverty. His delegation believed the alleviation of poverty would reduce the rate of population growth. The recent decline in the number of poor in East Asia was mainly attributable to rapid economic growth, but effective family-planning programmes had also been a factor. In that respect, the Summit should capitalize on the work of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 1994.

58. Action-oriented social programmes could not be discussed without considering resource mobilization. The Summit should provide momentum for an increase in assistance to social programmes in developing countries. At the same time, the international community should consider ways to enhance the use of existing resources. The movement towards incorporating social dimensions in the lending policies of multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks should be strengthened.

59. In promoting social development, the United Nations system had many advantages, among them, expertise in specialized fields, networks of field offices and political neutrality, and should play a major role. To make its work more effective, it had been responding to changing political, economic and social circumstances by adopting new concepts and methods, such as priority for human development, the programme approach, capacity-building and national execution. Further efforts were required to achieve closer coordination and a unified approach among the organizations of the system. The World Summit, together with its preparatory process, should be used to identify common social strategies. In that regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea supported the idea, proposed by the United States, of organizing an annual joint meeting of the Security and Economic and Social Councils to review potential economic and social crises around the world. The World Summit should provide an opportunity for each State to review its development priorities and policies, and to modify them in such a way as to enhance human potential by ensuring the full participation of its people.

60. Mr. AMARATUNGA (Sri Lanka) said that the preparations for the World Summit provided an opportunity to review the development strategies followed by the international community and to assess its contribution to social development. For Sri Lanka, an adequate standard of living for all, the rapid development of the country and an equitable distribution of national resources were major objectives, laid down in the Constitution. The strategy for achieving those goals was to permit market forces to operate and thus promote economic development and alleviate poverty. At the same time, the Government was working to protect the weaker sections of society through social welfare measures, tackle regional disparities in employment opportunities and decentralize administration, in keeping with the philosophy of people-based development. The efforts made had resulted in an average GDP growth rate of 5 per cent a year in recent years, and a significant drop in unemployment. The Government remained determined to deregulate the economy and encourage foreign direct investment and export-led growth. Human resources development was another important area in economic planning. The programmes carried out had helped Sri Lanka to rank high in the human development index devised by UNDP.

61. The international community was concentrating on new development strategies and concepts. The strategies should be looked at in a comprehensive, integrated manner, taking into account their country specific suitability, in order to arrive at a correct mix of policies with a view to achieving sustainable growth and enabling people to enjoy their rights. One reason for the failure of development efforts was the fact that the international community had done very little to create the external environment needed to breathe life into the development models of the past. Flows of resources, as either aid or trade, had been grossly inadequate to loosen the grip of external debt and trade deficits that had stifled the developing countries' economies.

62. In order to attain the Summit objectives of making peoples' needs the centre of development and international cooperation, and achieving a balance between economic efficiency and social justice, the core issue of poverty needed to be addressed. The world economy was going through the severest recession since the Second World War. Production in the developed countries was stagnating, credit flows were shrinking, and clearly no country could escape the crunch of the global crisis. High interest rates and turbulent international currency markets had not helped the situation. The servicing of developing countries' external debts had resulted in a net flow of resources from them to the developed countries. International cooperation was vitally needed to restore financial stability and stimulate economic activity. His delegation hoped the Uruguay Round would be brought to a successful conclusion, in a well-balanced and transparent manner, before the end of the year. To encourage foreign direct investment, framework instruments needed to be negotiated at the international level, including trade-related investment measures, a code of conduct on the transfer of technology, and other steps.

63. In the social development field, the United Nations system had made a laudable contribution in helping vulnerable groups. The pressures of the modern age on social cohesion were great and required measures to assist affected groups. In that regard, the question of human rights, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural, individual or collective, was germane to the Summit. The right to development was an inalienable right. At the same time, the principle of accountability was fundamental to democratic societies. In an increasingly complex development process, and with the high degree of global integration brought about by the communications revolution, it was essential to be receptive to ideas for improving economic policies in order to resolve the problems of poverty.

64. Mr. LOUDGHIRI (Morocco) said that social development had become one of the world's chief concerns. The proliferation of causes of conflict demanded a new form of cooperation, which the World Summit would seek to define.

65. Morocco, for its part, was pursuing a social policy aimed at protecting the family and maintaining mutual understanding in society. It had established the necessary institutional means, especially in the areas of social welfare, education and training. Because of the acute problems stemming from the population explosion, the flight from rural areas, unemployment, desertification and drought, together with financial constraints, it was, however, difficult for the public sector to provide all the social services needed. As the Secretary-General had said, action by the various social partners, such as voluntary associations, cooperatives and mutual benefit societies, must be encouraged.

66. The integration of women into social, economic, cultural and political life was essential to promote the full development and stability of family life and social progress generally. Morocco had adopted a national strategy for the advancement of women. It was implementing a national plan of action to prevent infant mortality and protect and promote the development of children, and a national plan of action to improve nutrition.

67. Social development was a common concern for all States. He hoped the World Summit would make it possible to outline a global policy and would mark the beginning of a new era in which international cooperation would give priority to the family, which was the objective of all social action.

68. Mr. BATU (Turkey) said that despite efforts at the national, regional and international levels, the international community was undergoing a social crisis that affected all regions and societies without exception. Poverty, unemployment, social insecurity, social disintegration and crime were gaining ground, sometimes endangering the stability of countries. At least one billion people were suffering from deprivation. Experience showed that neglect of social problems was very costly. Economic and social development was as important as peace and security in achieving the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

69. Turkey was experiencing very rapid social change and intense urbanization and was attempting to resolve its social problems and mitigate their consequences. Its goal was to develop human resources and give economic growth a human and social dimension. Its efforts were focused mainly on young people, families, the elderly and the disabled.

70. Turkey warmly welcomed and supported the convening of the World Summit. It shared the objectives of the Summit and supported the selection of the three core issues. The enhancement of social integration, the alleviation and reduction of poverty and the expansion of productive employment were closely interrelated topics. It welcomed the Secretary-General's establishment of a trust fund, to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and the Summit.

71. The Summit should enhance the priority given to the social dimension of development and provide practi-

cal guidelines for national and international action. Turkey would contribute actively to the preparatory process and the Summit, which it hoped would be crowned with success.

72. Mr. NANDOE (Suriname) said that the international community was confronted with many difficulties, demands and threats but seemed determined to work together to maintain and safeguard peace and security. The effort would be undermined if the underlying causes, the socio-economic problems that threatened peace and stability, were not addressed adequately and in good time. Over one billion people currently lived in unacceptable conditions of deprivation, and the number was rising.

73. A combination of poverty and population pressure was giving rise to large-scale movements of people, from rural areas to cities and between countries. Migration would become an explosive issue during the 1990s. Women and children were particularly vulnerable to poverty. A more comprehensive and effective approach to poverty alleviation with greater emphasis on education, health, housing, nutrition and job creation should be given the same priority as questions of international peace and security.

74. In the preparatory process and the Summit itself, the sectoral approach should be replaced by an integrated approach to economic and social issues.

75. His delegation fully subscribed to General Assembly resolution 47/92. During the preparatory process, developed and developing countries should agree on the need to formulate strategies to tackle the core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development. Efforts should be made to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice. In that respect, he endorsed the statement of the Observer for the Netherlands at the 12th meeting that it was time to share experience and listen to critics, including non-governmental organizations. It went without saying that effective action in the sphere of social development required adequate resources. In his view, insufficient attention had been paid to financial issues during the two days of discussion. In many developing countries, the alleviation of widespread poverty required substantial resources. Debt servicing and structural adjustment measures had made considerable inroads into public-sector resources and commodity earnings had been falling. Unfortunately, the prognosis for external aid was grim. The United Nations was spending three times more on peace-keeping than on development assistance. As the Administrator of UNDP had told the Governing Council, the international community could not pretend that it stood for peace if it turned its back on human deprivation.

76. The end of the arms race, which had consumed hundreds of billions of dollars annually, should make resources available. As the representative of the United States had said, countries must trust each other enough to devote fewer resources to weapons. The United Nations had a unique role to play in putting its influence at the service of the world's poor. The World Summit offered it an opportunity to do so, in a spirit of partnership for development.

77. Mr. HASSANOV (Observer for Azerbaijan) said that his country, a member of the United Nations for over a year, gave high priority to its cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and attached great importance to the World Summit.

78. Social development issues had always been one of Azerbaijan's core concerns. The eradication of illiteracy, free secondary education and advances in housing and health were incontestable achievements of the social policy applied for over a decade. Despite difficulties and undeniable mistakes, it could be said that Azerbaijan possessed, in the twentieth century, a developed social infrastructure.

79. The dismantling of the Soviet Union and the economic crisis in the newly independent States had dealt a severe blow to social programmes. In Azerbaijan, the overriding factor had been the armed conflict with Armenia. The conflict, which had been going on for over five years, had done considerable harm to social programmes. Ten per cent of Azerbaijan's people had been forced to abandon their homes and were refugees. In their attacks, the Armenians were destroying schools, hospitals and roads. The social infrastructure had been demolished in one fifth of the land. There were many unemployed, and infant mortality was high. Epidemics were beginning to break out.

80. In addition, the state of the environment could be described as catastrophic. At Baku and Sumgait, toxic waste had reached unprecedented levels. The Caspian Sea was in a worse state than the Aral Sea. Much arable land had been destroyed, and there were grave threats to Azerbaijan's fragile ecosystem.

81. Social development and economic development were inseparable. The international community faced problems which, on account of their scale, interdependence and complexity, could only be resolved by all States acting in concert. The United Nations must coordinate efforts to establish an effective social policy appropriate to the twenty-first century.

82. Mr. KHERBI (Observer for Algeria) said that, although there was widespread awareness of social problems, views differed widely about the notion of social development and the recommended solutions. In recent years, growing tensions and more stringent economic and financial constraints had accelerated the deterioration of the social situation in many countries, particularly in the third world. Progress towards freedom and democracy was being thwarted. The *Human Development Report 1993*[2] brought out the problems. The transition to democracy did not happen overnight. It took time. Democracy was not a miracle cure. It could not be regarded as a means of achieving modernization; the reverse was rather the case. Its establishment required sus-

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[2] See 12th meeting, note 1.

tained economic development and greater social justice, as well as new forms of cooperation among nations and greater fairness in international economic relations.

83. The alarming situation in most developing countries pointed to the crucial issue of development finance. The constraints brought about by macroeconomic reconstruction and the reduction of financial flows to a trickle had penalized developing country economies and torpedoed their social development. The developing countries had nevertheless undertaken ambitious and punishing structural adjustment programmes to stimulate growth, investment and employment. The immediate effect of the programmes had been the impoverishment of the middle classes and deterioration of the living conditions of the poorest population groups. Algeria had made great efforts to bring its domestic and external finances into balance, revive growth and speed up social integration at the cost of huge sacrifices. Its efforts ought to earn it the encouragement and support of international monetary and financial institutions.

84. The institutions should recognize the social cost of the adjustment programmes they advocated and reshape them accordingly. A seminar on the subject could be organized jointly by the United Nations and the institutions.

85. Among the issues to be deliberated at the World Summit, he stressed the social development/economic development interface, in a long-term perspective; linkages between economic development, technological advances and urbanization; migration questions, with the associated issues of marginalization, racial hatred and exclusion; and capital and commodity flows, which were also linked to migration questions.

86. The common destiny of all countries of the world was becoming apparent. It was up to the United Nations to assume a role in shaping a common future, a task which should begin at once.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

17th meeting

Wednesday, 30 June 1993, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)
later: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.17

AGENDA ITEM 2

World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development (*concluded*)

1. Mr. JOULYNSKY (Ukraine) said he was confident that the World Summit would be productive. In the meantime Governments already faced the problem of elaborating models for the coordination of economic policy and social programmes. For countries in transition that was not an easy task and in his own country it was complicated by such factors as the influx of refugees, including returning Crimean Tartars and other peoples deported from the Ukraine. New social models had to be constructed to deal with the complex array of political, economic, ecological, cultural and ethical problems.

2. In the difficult period of transition to a market economy, the Government was seeking to maintain social, economic and political equilibrium in the country. In order to preserve social peace and order, it had been obliged to maintain the employment level and was retaining the existing machinery for the protection of the disabled, the elderly and large families.

3. As Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Questions, he was responsible for coordination of the work of ministries and departments in the humanitarian sector and the development of a comprehensive programme for the enhancement of the social environment, taking into account the traditional historical values of the people. In connection with the preparation of that programme, a seminar on humanitarian policy in the Ukraine had been held in Kiev in May 1993 under the auspices of the United Nations.

4. His delegation endorsed the proposal to hold a World Summit and believed the meeting would stimulate the adoption of social policies at the national level. It was appropriate that the Summit should be held in 1995 when the 50th anniversary of the United Nations would be celebrated.

5. The Summit's agenda should include such questions as measures to ensure availability of food, clothing and medical care for the population, the elimination of illiteracy, population policy, the ending of discrimination on grounds of sex, and the strengthening of social peace and concord. The maintenance of a balance between economic development and social protection of the population, in particular vulnerable groups, was an important issue.

6. Mr. ABDELHATI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the support given to the idea of convening an international conference on social development at such a high level reflected increasing world recognition of the urgent need for social protection of the wide range of sectors and peoples whose lives were characterized by poverty, starvation, backwardness, racial discrimination, oppression and social injustice.

7. The Summit agenda should reflect the social needs of the majority of the world's peoples, who still suffered from a lack of social security, and should be guided by the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations related to social development.

8. The Conference must reiterate the common political will of all members of the international community and stress the importance of the full implementation of all relevant world declarations.

9. World peace and stability were threatened by a variety of factors ranging from environmental deterioration to the widening gap between North and South. Despite those challenges, the world had a unique opportunity to take advantage of the spirit of cooperation and understanding that prevailed in international relations in various parts of the world in the aftermath of the cold war. Peace was an essential element for achieving progress and development in the social field.

10. The Summit should call for world cooperation in all fields of comprehensive development, giving due consideration to the relationship between social security, world peace and security based on full respect for the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States as well as their sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right of every State to determine its national choices freely in the political, social and economic fields.

11. Despite the difficulties his country had faced in recent years, it had succeeded in improving the economic and social life of Libyans under judicial guarantees in a society based on the full participation of all the people in decision-making in the economic and social fields.

12. The coercive measures to which his country and others in the third world were exposed were major obstacles to the implementation of the economic and social policies they sought to pursue. The imposition of arbitrary sanctions and economic boycotts did not serve the purpose of social development. The full world potential should be mobilized to serve mankind and social development and to eliminate poverty, starvation and backwardness throughout the world.

13. Dr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General of the World Health Organization) said that, as early as 1977, the World Health Assembly had called attention to the human and social dimensions of development and emphasized health as a basic human right and as a condition for the full participation of individuals and communities in economic and social development. In 1978, WHO had endorsed the Alma-Ata Declaration,[1] which defined the universal goal of health for all by the year 2000 through primary health care.

14. Through political will and community participation, much progress had been made in the implementation of the WHO global strategy for health for all. Technological breakthroughs and political commitment had enabled WHO to launch worldwide campaigns for leprosy elimination and poliomyelitis eradication.

15. WHO had intensified its direct support to countries for their health development programmes. It had also focused on vulnerable groups, such as children and women, and on the least developed countries. In its women's health programme, it had called for integrated and sustainable development policies where health action, together with educational and economic empowerment of women, would be recognized as mutually supportive policies.

16. Providing universal access to health care, in a spirit of equity and social justice, must be a shared responsibility by all countries. But it must be understood that investing in health was also the sensible thing to do from an economic viewpoint. By successfully controlling river blindness, the WHO programme had made 24 million hectares of land in Africa available for human resettlement and economic development. Conversely, failure to recognize health priorities and to sustain funding for disease prevention and national development plans was proving disastrous in the long run, as shown by the current global upsurge of malaria and tuberculosis, at tremendous cost in both economic and human terms.

17. At a time of worldwide economic crisis, funding for social and human development should be protected to the maximum. Mentioning a few examples of health problems that were or would be major social and eco-

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[1] Report of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, series "Health for All", No. 1, WHO, Geneva, 1978, p. 2.

nomic issues for all and required joint planning and coordinated action, he said that AIDS was a threat to the very future of humankind and must be fought with biomedical, educational, social and economic weapons. An integrated approach to the management of the environment would make it possible to reduce health hazards, the economic cost of industrial accidents and pollution and to improve control over diseases such as cholera and malaria. To contain the general upward trend of non-communicable diseases like cancer and cardiovascular diseases in developing and developed countries, changes must be made in lifestyles, and, therefore, in consumption and production patterns.

18. Throughout the world people lived longer but their quality of life was often impaired in their later years. The impending shift in the age structure of many countries would have far-reaching economic and social implications and required urgent attention and concerted action from all sectors of society.

19. With regard to the World Summit for Social Development, WHO was already working with the regional economic commissions and, by 1994, before the first session of the preparatory committee, would have convened a multidisciplinary expert group to consider the three core issues proposed for the agenda of the Summit. The group would focus on determining the health components that could and should be integrated in the many development programmes undertaken by the United Nations system. For example, high priority would be given to working out more systematic linkages and continuity between humanitarian relief operations and health infrastructure rehabilitation.

20. In the changing world of the 1990s, health demanded a new partnership which must be developed between WHO and its member States, among member States themselves, between the North and South, the haves and the have-nots, States and their citizenry, the public and private sectors, health workers and their patients. Health and human development as a whole implied a new social and international covenant, a sharing of resource and responsibilities at many different levels.

21. Mr. HAMILTON (Observer for New Zealand) said it was widely accepted that greater attention must be paid to social rights and social development in the search for a more stable and peaceful world. The three core issues outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/92 as key topics for the Summit were interrelated and in addressing them members must bear in mind how each affected the others.

22. The core issues encompassed many different social problems. Those different interests would need to be considered and the right balance would have to be struck in dealing with them. To avoid disappointment, the direction taken by the preparatory process must be under constant scrutiny to ensure that it was not unrealistically broad or duplicative.

23. An important part of the entire summit process would be the sharing of ideas by Governments and organizations. The social maladies common to all societies would be laid bare and members would examine their causes and why they had not yet been eradicated. New Zealand looked forward to hearing how other countries were attempting to overcome their social development problems and to contributing to the flow of ideas.

24. As the Commission for Social Development had pointed out, while safety-net or welfare provisions formed one aspect of social development policy, they should not simply aim at protecting people but should also provide them with the opportunities to reduce their vulnerability. His Government's policy was increasingly targeted at the community unit and focused on increasing the self-reliance and self-sustainability of individuals and communities. Encouragement and support of personal potential was important for all people and especially so for indigenous people who for too long had suffered a loss of confidence through being expected to conform to non-indigenous systems of social support.

25. His Government had recently financed policy projects under which funding was given to pilot Maori development projects initiated by the Maori community. The outcomes of those projects were fed back by the community and in turn helped to provide policy advice to the Government.

26. His delegation supported the Commission for Social Development's call for action-oriented plans and programmes that could be monitored on a continuing basis.

27. The Summit and its preparatory processes could assist in building a new analytical framework to examine current pressing problems. Development must be woven around people and provide for the empowerment of individuals and groups. His delegation supported the Commission's call for special attention to the impact of social maladies on women and their role in the search for solutions. The voices of indigenous peoples of the world must be heard on issues involving social change as well as human rights, economic development and justice.

28. Mr. NEAGU (Romania) said that the World Summit was one of a series of world conferences that had begun with UNCED in Rio, continued with the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and would be followed by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and later by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

29. The preparation for the World Summit was greatly facilitated by the agreements on principles and the specific measures devised with respect to development and human rights in Rio and Vienna. Without a clear view of ways in which to ensure sustainable development, it would be impossible to find sound solutions to the social

problems facing mankind in general and each regional country in particular.

30. The increasingly fresh look at issues of international cooperation encouraged the consideration of development as a multifaceted and interdependent process in which social aspects were of primary importance. Efforts directed at economic development would not bear fruit without full respect for human rights, as had been shown by the sad experience of Central and Eastern Europe.

31. The same was true with regard to democracy. The fact that people did not participate fully in the political and economic life of their country alienated most of society and resulted in the failure of State structures, as had happened in Central and Eastern Europe. Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

32. The emergence of common perceptions regarding development and problems of economic management, as well as increased convergence in favour of democratic values and human rights, had great practical significance. They facilitated the dissemination of valid policies and practices aimed at improving social protection and services, alleviating poverty and developing human resources. His delegation shared the view expressed on behalf of the European Community that the World Summit should be based on a clear commitment to social justice and should put people at the centre of development and international cooperation.

33. The fall of communism had brought the people's accumulated dissatisfactions and frustrations, particularly regarding the standard of living, to the surface. Dramatic poverty in the developing world and soaring unemployment elsewhere together constituted a source of tension and confrontation that endangered peace and security. Those topics should become part of the agenda of preventive diplomacy and his delegation supported the proposal for annual joint meetings of the Security and Economic and Social Councils to review potential economic and social crises.

34. Experience in the countries of Eastern Europe demonstrated the need for a balance between the economic and social dimensions of development and the inclusion of social policy components in comprehensive national strategies. A draft agenda for social development, drawn up during the preparatory process for the Summit, could frame not only the basic principles but the main international actions that needed to be taken in order to promote balanced economic and social development. The mobilization of the necessary resources remained a crucial issue. Such resources could derive only from growth-oriented and sustainable development and a more rational use of the available financial and human resources.

35. Mr. AL-SULTAN (President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development), said that the core issues proposed for the World Summit were of direct relevance to the more than one billion human beings living in absolute poverty. Their economic, cultural, and sometimes even geographical, marginalization had exacted a heavy cost in terms of social disintegration, threatening political and social institutions. Moreover, the under-utilization of their talents and potential imposed an enormous and unnecessary economic loss on their countries. Success in the process of social development would depend on opening the way for those deprived groups to adequate education, health and social services and creating opportunities for productive economic activities and employment.

36. One major aim of the World Summit might be to generate a greater degree of consensus on the level of resources required for health, education and social services. Currently, those services tended to be among the first to suffer from budgetary cuts, often with lasting adverse consequences for social development. In order to create economic opportunities, ways must be found of giving the deprived groups fair access to resources, technology and markets. Without such access, market-oriented reforms carried the risk of accentuating the marginalization of the poor and aggravating social disintegration, thus jeopardizing both adjustment and development. What was needed was an approach to growth and development that placed the poor at the centre.

37. All too often, the poor were seen primarily as a burden and assistance to them was often placed in the context of welfare. The scale of poverty was far too great, however, to allow the poor to be brought out of deprivation only through welfare measures. Few developing countries would be able to afford them. The key to poverty alleviation and social integration lay in enabling the poor to harness their own productive potential. Although the productivity and incomes of the poor were low, owing to the many constraints they faced, they in fact made substantial contributions to economic production. Given proper policies and incentives, they could be transformed into a resource for development rather than a hindrance to it.

38. IFAD had had 15 years of operational experience in helping the rural poor to raise their food output and productive employment, improve their nutrition and overcome poverty. Experience had repeatedly shown that, when offered the chance, poor groups responded eagerly to improved methods. Such a productivity-based approach to poverty alleviation was particularly important for two issues central to sustainable social and economic development: preserving the environment and enhancing the participation of women, especially rural women, in economic activities. The deterioration of the environment was particularly devastating for the rural poor since it directly threatened their resource base. IFAD experience had shown that approaches in which measures to increase food production to meet immediate needs were combined with longer-term steps to enhance

the environment could make the alleviation of poverty and the preservation of the environment mutually supportive.

39. Rural women were among the poorest of the poor. They faced all the constraints of the poor in general as well as special gender-related difficulties. Nevertheless, they made a vital contribution to food production and added to family incomes by a variety of household-based activities. Many studies had shown a strong correlation between the level of women's education and the health of children. It was also closely linked to lower birthrates and progress in other social indicators. Recognizing their vital role, IFAD had long given priority in its projects to women beneficiaries. It had responded to the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women[2] adopted by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992, by including its goals in virtually all current projects. It was also working to develop a comprehensive approach to bringing women into the mainstream of production in rural societies. Unless the economic contribution of rural women was properly recognized and adequately supported, the prospects of achieving sustainable poverty alleviation and balanced social development would be bleak.

40. At the same time, external support of adequate dimension and imaginative form would be indispensable. In that context, IFAD was seeking to mobilize a level of resources for its fourth replenishment, currently under negotiation, that would enable it to maintain and enhance the rhythm of its operations. He urged the members of the Council to lend their support to the Fund's efforts in that regard.

41. The challenge of fostering more rapid and sustainable social development was so great that it required a genuine partnership for development, mobilizing the collaborative efforts of all concerned. Within the United Nations system, IFAD worked with its partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies to make programmes complementary and mutually self-supporting. It was also collaborating with the international financial institutions to mobilize additional resources. At the country level, it worked not only with Governments but with local institutions, non-governmental organizations and a variety of grassroots institutions of the poor themselves. The overriding objective of all those endeavours was to mobilize the capacity of the poor for self-help and to link their abilities with formal institutions, including banks, research and extension institutions and the markets. It was through beneficial linkages between the productive activities of the poor and the institutional fabric of society that social integration could be fostered and poverty alleviated. The poor had too long been regarded as peripheral to organized society and the economy. It was time for their capacities to be recognized as social and economic assets. The World Summit offered a unique opportunity to join hands in working for that goal, and IFAD would be proud to be part of the process.

42. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland) said that the decision to choose the World Summit, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development, as the major theme for the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session could not have come at a more appropriate time. The end of the cold war and the demise of the bipolar international structure had brought an imperative need to focus attention on development. Each decade seemed to have offered new lessons and challenges in that connection. The 1960s had been characterized by optimism that world poverty could be eliminated by fostering economic growth. That dream had been shattered in the 1970s, when it became apparent that unemployment and inequality were growing and poverty was intractable in the third world. The next attempt had been the pursuit of growth with equity, but that too had not produced the intended results. The 1980s had brought greater caution. It became clear that world poverty could not be eliminated by a simple economic panacea. Resource shortages, of energy particularly, rising protectionism in the industrialized countries, militarism in the third world, the international arms race, the debt crisis, and the structure of the world economy, all made the design of development strategies a complex problem of political economy rather than a simple economic issue.

43. In the 1990s, the East European countries were moving from being centrally-planned economies of the second world to market-oriented underdeveloped countries of the third world. If the development efforts of the industrialized countries were to be focused on aiding Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America could well be at a disadvantage. The forthcoming World Summit should draw upon all those lessons and experiences. The aim should be to formulate a multidisciplinary perspective of development, defined in terms of the improved ability of individuals to control their own lives through economic, political and social action.

44. The World Summit should consider social development in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) on the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered contained a number of pertinent ideas. One such idea was the grass-roots approach to development. Experience had shown that any development undertaking that excluded the individuals for whom it was intended, from participation was doomed to failure. People should participate in the formation and shaping of development projects. External assistance was also a very important element, but its role should be to support the exercise and not determine the results. The quality of government intervention was also important. Development assistance should be responsive and relevant to the national needs and goals of the developing countries. National Governments and donor agencies had a crucial role to play in coordination and should

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[2] A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

work within established national structures, in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

45. It should be drawn to the attention of the World Summit that developing country debt constituted a major obstacle to development. Any development strategy that failed to address it would be frustrated. An interdisciplinary approach was needed, recognizing that government and the market were intertwined in modern societies, and that man was a social being whose arrangements for the production and distribution of economic goods must be consistent with the institutions of family, political and cultural life. There was a compelling need for an analysis that incorporated such non-economic influences as social structures, political systems and cultural values, as well as such factors as technological change and the distribution of income and wealth.

46. Cardinal ETCHEGARAY (Observer for the Holy See) said that the Holy See regarded the plan to hold the World Summit as particularly timely at a moment when many countries, disappointed or deceived by the development models which they had had constructed or had imposed on them, had lost faith in the very idea of development. The preparatory process for the World Summit aimed at relaunching the idea of development as a lever capable of moving the world and restoring the confidence of mankind. The Secretary-General's report seemed a good approach whereby to avoid new frustrations and disappointments.

47. The problem of development was not just a problem of the developing countries. Development was not a straight line where some were in front and some behind and where only an increase of speed was needed for the latter, by copying the rest, to be able to catch up with them. The classification of certain countries as "least developed", or others as "newly industrialized", implied that development was guided solely by the experience of the West. It was his hope that the World Summit would present an open platform where all the participants, with the same idea of mankind, worked together to establish a still unknown idea of development based on true interdependence.

48. One of the three core issues of the Summit was poverty. Indeed, nothing was more urgent than the alleviation of the massive and entrenched poverty referred to by the Secretary-General. At the same time, it was important to discover what kind of poverty. Spiritual poverty was perhaps more cruel than material poverty. Perhaps the so-called rich countries needed to discover the values common to the so-called poor countries and indeed to promote them. The "new poor" in the developed countries were perhaps a warning of the precarious nature of societies based on abundance. Could not a certain degree of poverty even be regarded as a thing of value? Such questions, however, must not hold back the campaign against social inequalities or fail to call in question the structures of a society based on such inequalities.

49. The Holy See had been gratified by the increased attention to human and social development manifested in the recent reports and programmes of the international financial institutions and specialized agencies of the United Nations. In that sense, Rio in 1992, Vienna in 1993, Cairo in 1994, Copenhagen and Beijing in 1995, had acted or would act as sources of illumination combining to cast light on the real face of man and his central place in creation. Thus, development became the place where mankind could learn hope: a development founded in the soil of each people, deriving its impulse from individual responsibility and participation, a development guaranteed by the advance of democracy, a development of which human rights would be at once the means and the goal. The Holy See would do its part to spread the United Nations message to ordinary people throughout the world. In particular, the Church would seek to raise the idea of development to a moral obligation, based on the vision of the human family as one and equal in the plan of creation.

50. Underdevelopment was a worse evil than had ever been imagined. Development was a harder task than had been realized. The world, disappointed, needed to be told again that everything was possible to those who believed in man, and, he would have to say, who believed in God. The Economic and Social Council had constructed a vast workplace where every individual had his task, which he would carry out all the better the more he realized that, in working for himself, he was working for all mankind.

51. Mr. CHOUROV (Observer for Bulgaria) said that his Government shared the expectation that the World Summit would make a valuable contribution to the efforts to strengthen and further develop the guiding principles for development set forth in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. Proper preparation for the Summit would require the coordinated efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, Member States and non-governmental organizations.

52. Although ideological confrontation on the principles of social development had been largely eliminated as a result of the recent profound political changes, world social development lagged far behind the requirements of the age. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) gave a clear picture of the social injustice, poverty, unemployment and lack of access to social services that affected the lives of millions of human beings. Vulnerable groups in the industrialized countries were also suffering. In the countries in transition, the increase in the number of marginalized people posed an ever-present threat. The translation into coordinated action of universally accepted principles placing the social and human dimension at the centre of the development process, still to be determined, must become a priority item in the United Nations agenda for development. Such action

should also aim at preventing social instability and conflict, including ethnic conflict, with their associated problems of flows of refugees and displaced persons.

53. The intangible characteristics of social development should also be high on the international agenda. Bulgaria considered human rights a matter of priority. The solution to human rights problems should be sought not only through economic recovery but through the spread of moral values. In addressing the problems of the alleviation of poverty, the generation of productive employment and social integration, the World Summit could be expected to focus on comprehensive and action-oriented measures that would take into account all social factors and requirements.

54. Sustained economic growth was an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. It was regrettable that, at a time when market-economy principles had been almost universally accepted, world economic recovery should be proceeding so slowly. Nevertheless, the opportunity to create a worldwide integrated economic system still existed. The successful integration of the former centrally-planned economies would provide a strong impetus for worldwide social and economic development and would speed the process of reform in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

55. The agreements recently concluded by Bulgaria with the European Community and EFTA States had been guided by that belief. A trade agreement had also been concluded with the United States. The Bulgarian Government was currently in the process of negotiating membership of GATT. In that connection, it hoped for an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round and a consequent positive effect on world trade and development in general.

56. The Republic of Bulgaria and its people had shown their determination to pay the high social and economic price of transition to a market economy. At the same time, the Government was aware that, unless positive economic results and improved living standards were achieved within a reasonable time, the reform process could be compromised. To protect that process, the Government was doing its best to reorganize and improve the social security system and to build the social safety net that was essential during restructuring and de-regulation. Unfortunately, its efforts faced serious economic and financial obstacles. In the past three years, national, social and economic development had not only suffered the inevitable side-effects of the reform but had also been confronted with heavy economic losses resulting from strict observance of the trade and economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Further restrictions could jeopardize the sustainability of the reform process itself. Bulgaria's special economic problems, resulting from factors beyond its control, should be given priority consideration.

57. Bulgaria welcomed the increasing attention being given to social problems within the United Nations system and supported in principle the approach to social development goals outlined in the Secretary-General's report. Bulgaria also welcomed the increased attention being paid to social aspects of development by the international financial institutions. It intended to participate actively in the World Summit, in the belief that it would yield fresh ideas and new commitments, aimed at improving the quality of life of the world's peoples.

58. Mr. OSMANY (Bangladesh) said that social development problems were universal: social decay, poverty and unemployment existed in the midst of material prosperity as well as in the poorest countries. While the underlying causes were identical, priorities and policies for social development were differently perceived according to the cultural, social, economic and political characteristics of each society. People, expressing themselves through democratic systems, were the final arbiters of social development, and it was to them that the World Summit should address itself. Deprivation and exclusion were common factors in the three core issues and, as the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/77) pointed out, a comprehensive and concerted response was required. The world should look beyond deprivation and exclusion, which were only symptoms of the real malady, destructive impulses born of hatred, fear and greed, and endeavour to harness the basic forces that united humanity, love, confidence and a spirit of sharing.

59. After a long, hard struggle the people of Bangladesh had ousted a dictator and established truly democratic government, the rule of law, an independent judiciary and full press freedom. The Prime Minister was giving priority to social and human resources development and had allocated the highest proportion of the development budget to primary education and health. All sections of the people were being integrated into the social development process through democratic participation. A high priority of the Government's policy was to involve women, the rural population, minorities and other disadvantaged groups in that process. The Grameen Bank and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee were among the most successful non-governmental organizations in creating rural employment, particularly among women, and the example of the latter organization had been followed by many other countries. The food for work programme was also making a significant contribution to the alleviation of poverty and the creation of rural employment.

60. The international community would be expected to focus attention more sharply on the desperate plight of the 47 least developed countries, in some of which the structure of the State and basic social institutions was in danger of total collapse. The political, economic and social cost of prevention would be far less than the cost of repair and reconstruction following such a breakdown. In least developed countries like Bangladesh, opportunities for productive employment could not be generated without capital and technological input. There would be

no incentive to produce goods and services unless they could be marketed. Unfortunately, the peace dividend had become a forgotten promise, and capital and technology were not finding their way to the poorest countries. Nor had the Uruguay Round yet taken full account of their desperate needs. Unless the global environment of aid, investment and trade supported the LDCs more actively, the World Summit might be yet another exercise in public relations and political inaction.

61. The global strategy for social development might have to focus upon four basic elements: the creation and sustainment of democratic institutions, both national and international, which should assume the task of defining and achieving social development goals; the adoption of viable policies and programmes to initiate and expedite the development process; the generation and allocation of additional and new resources, both internally and externally, to meet programme needs; and the creation of better trade and investment opportunities by the international community. Democracy, respect for human rights and a socially targeted approach would have to be achieved by the developing countries themselves. It would be necessary also to try to unite humanity in a spirit of love, mutual trust and cooperation. In true democratic spirit, the preparatory process and the World Summit itself should remain open to appropriate inputs from all interest groups, including non-governmental organizations.

62. His delegation shared the view that the social and economic dimensions of security were as important as the military dimension and accordingly supported in principle the United States proposal to establish a dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

63. Mr. MARDOVITCH (Belarus) said that his Government was keenly interested in enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation on the three core issues to be considered at the World Summit. The Republic of Belarus was embarking in exceptionally difficult circumstances upon the construction of a market-based economic system and the future of social development greatly depended on the tactics adopted to advance in that direction on the priorities of socio-economic policy and on the pace and quality of the economic reforms instituted. The difficulties inherent in making the transition to a new economic system were intensified by a number of circumstances, including the heavy burden of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Electric Power Station. One in five of the inhabitants of Belarus lived in the contaminated area, and according to expert calculations, the disaster was costing the Republic one sixteenth of its annual budget. A further cause of the crisis was the breakdown in the economic links that had existed under the former Soviet Union, including the inter-republic division of labour and regional economic specialization, and the Republic's almost complete lack of raw material resources. Further major material and financial difficulties arose from the conversion of military production, and the thoroughgoing demilitarization pursued by the Republic. Those factors were inevitably hampering advances in market reforms, with resulting major social problems: a fall in living standards, an increase in social tensions, a rising crime rate, growing unemployment, especially among young people, women and persons of pre-pensionable age, a deterioration in the situation of invalids, the elderly, and large families, and problems encountered in the fields of health care, education, and the provision of pensions. Nevertheless, the Government was succeeding in retaining control of the socio-economic situation, and Belarus was currently one of the few islands of political stability in the territory of the former Soviet Union. That was largely due to recognition of the political significance of the processes of social development occurring in the Republic, and understanding of the need for balanced economic and social development. Economic and social progress were inseparable and the pursuit of economic growth at the expense of other aspects of social development would inevitably have deleterious effects.

64. Belarus hoped that proper attention would be paid at the World Summit to the problems of countries in transition, which in many cases called for exceptional measures. International support for the social and economic reforms in those countries would be bound to have a positive effect on the direction, timing and quality of their development, and would contribute to the formation of a global social system. He hoped the Summit would substantially widen the scope for State and private initiatives for social development at the national level and would open up new possibilities for active cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In his delegation's view, the Summit should enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the social development process. It considered the United States representatives' proposal for joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council under Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations deserved careful consideration.

65. The World Summit would have to lay the foundations of a coordinated policy in a world liberated from fruitless ideological confrontation. He hoped the international understanding achieved at the Summit would confirm the recognition by States of their common interest in social progress and stability, and of respect for basic human rights and freedoms as a central component in stable development. His Government believed the Summit would mark a new stage in the international coordination of efforts to meet the global social challenges confronting mankind.

66. Mr. LANUS (Argentina) reaffirmed his Government's support for the World Summit. It attached particular importance to the participation of ILO, because of the contribution the latter could make as a result of its rich tripartite experience in the social field.

67. Economic and social development had been transformed by events that affected individuals and States. The situation created by the end of the cold war, the

technology explosion and the internationalization of the economy had made it necessary to rethink concepts that had appeared fixed for all time. There were many questions and in many cases no answers. The democratization of politics at the world level had resulted in the emergence of new social actors who contested the power of the State, shaping new forms of pluralism and broadening the participation in the administration of community structures. The individual had been placed in the centre of the debate. Development could no longer be considered the accumulation of wealth at the macroeconomic level of the national State but a process involving growth, distribution, equity and social justice for individuals and groups. In the international sphere, the data-processing revolution, the globalization of the economy and the presence of the new actors were also realigning the axis of international relations. The traditional concept of an international society of States had been superseded by that of an international community with a multiplicity of actors.

68. In the changed situation new guidelines were needed for economic and social development. The Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 55, set a series of objectives for international cooperation and social development, which should be given equal status with those relating to peace and security. There could be no development without peace and no peace without development. In that context he congratulated the Secretary-General on his report on the Summit (E/1993/77), which offset the tendency in some quarters to give greater weight to strategic and operational aspects of the maintenance of peace than to fulfilment of the Charter's economic and social goals.

69. Three factors affecting the living conditions and human dignity of the individual—employment, poverty and the social integration of groups threatened by unemployment and marginalization—demanded attention. According to the Secretary-General's report there were over 70 million unemployed in the developing countries, 28 million in the OECD countries and 7.5 million in the countries in transition. The impact of unemployment was particularly grim in the developing countries, where social security safety nets had in many cases been weakened under structural adjustment programmes. In Argentina social measures had been instituted to mitigate the consequences of the economic conversion plan, including the provision of unemployment benefits to alleviate the social effects of the privatization of State enterprises. Responsibility for implementation had been given to provincial and municipal governments, which were closer to the citizens.

70. Argentina's economic experiment could not be isolated from the world context in which economic growth was listless and protectionism and managed trade were on the increase. The lack of progress in the Uruguay Round directly affected social conditions in the developing countries and no doubt in the OECD countries also.

71. Disturbing as the unemployment figures were, they paled in comparison with the poverty statistics cited in the Secretary-General's report. Nearly 30 per cent of the population of developing countries, some 1,133 million persons, lived below the threshold of $370 per capita income. Mere assistance could not remedy that state of affairs. Equality of opportunity was the only way forward. In that context the organizations representing various groups had a crucial role to play and their interaction with the United Nations system was essential.

72. Equality of access and opportunity was the key to social integration. The individual must not be seen as a recipient of charity. He must be given the means to acquire training and such personal betterment. Integration must be pursued in a framework of respect for plurality and diversity and unqualified respect for universally accepted human rights and basic liberties.

73. Ms. BAUTISTA (Philippines) said that the 20 months that remained before the opening of the World Summit would barely suffice to unravel the complexities of the core issues and unify approaches to social development problems, particularly at the international level. Her Government had launched a strongly socially oriented medium-term development plan whose objectives were the building by the end of the century of a politically, economically and socially stable country with an empowered citizenry, a 50 per cent increase in per capita income, a 30 per cent reduction of poverty, and sustained, broad-based employment. Her Government had created the Philippine Council for Poverty Alleviation to unify the strategies of various agencies and institutions.

74. As preparations for the Summit proceeded, there had been a spate of generalizations and much theorizing on social development. A call had been made for the incorporation of social policies in development strategies as a prerequisite for the achievement of economic goals. The multilateral financial institutions had argued that social and economic development and political stability were inseparable. Others advocated a multidisciplinary concept of development to improve individual and collective material conditions.

75. Meanwhile time was lost and thousands more swelled the ranks of the 1.1 billion people living in abject poverty. In order to facilitate poverty reduction, the simple principle should be accepted that human beings were neither the objects of nor the actors in development but both at the same time, an approach known in the Philippines as "people-empowerment". The challenges of social development called for pragmatic, target-oriented measures to reduce the numbers of the socially deprived. In the developing countries poverty was aggravated by the debt burden, lack of international aid, and worsening trade as a result of protectionism. Decisive action was required to cancel official debt and provide generous relief for other types of debt. That would be a major contribution to the elimination of poverty and would enable poor countries to invest in poverty alleviation. Donor countries should recognize that reiterated

advocacy of dependence on market forces would not suffice.

76. Unemployment was a universal phenomenon but its effects were more acute in the developing countries, in many of which accelerated job generation was heavily dependent on foreign investment. The developed country Governments should encourage their private sectors to invest in developing countries. The integration of marginalized groups—women, children, the handicapped, and indigenous or ethnic groups, amongst others—called for priority attention, mainly by Governments. Such people, who received less from life, should be given more by law. In that field international cooperation was sorely needed, not only in terms of resource transfers but also through the adoption of measures which had proved their worth in other countries.

77. Her Government supported the full participation at all levels of non-governmental organizations concerned with social development activities. The world was slowly advancing towards global interdependency, and a common priority for individual human rights and a common interest in an orderly system of international trade should inspire all countries to pool their intellectual resources and direct their energies to the prompt relief of all those languishing in poverty, unemployment and marginalization. In 1991, the Philippines had hosted the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, which had adopted the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, calling for new approaches in development policy and the integration of social development in the overall development process. She reiterated her Government's offer to host an Asian regional meeting in preparation for the World Summit.

78. Social development was fundamental in the hierarchy of development structures, for it sustained economic progress and political stability, because the object and actor of the development process were the people themselves.

79. Mr. PINOARGOTE (Observer for Ecuador) said that it appeared to be generally agreed that social development was the primary aim of the 1990s. That consensus reflected a recognition, albeit belated, of the cry raised by the world's peoples, who could not comprehend how millions of them could be sunk in abject poverty while economic growth in the developed world continued apace. At the same time unemployment in the developed countries was breaking all records, creating an unforeseen burden of social security costs which, combined with high labour costs, made it difficult to compete with the third world, where wages were barely above starvation level. Such was the cruel paradox of the market economy. There was, indeed, a socialist market economy, in the world's largest country, whose economic success, however, was not enough to fulfil the hopes of a better world based on political democracy, economic prosperity, social peace and international security.

80. Rather than repeat the ideas put forward by many previous speakers, he wished to outline some possible practical approaches to the preparations for the Summit. The essential point was to establish an effective link between the ideas expressed and the sharp reality of rapidly spreading poverty. Some channels did exist within the United Nations system but, as could be seen from the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with multilateral financial institutions (E/1993/18 and Add.1 and 2), there were obstacles to the harmonization of efforts. To remove them must be one of the Summit's specific objectives.

81. It was important that cooperation by the developed countries must not be diverted, by seemingly attractive grandiose projects, away from the perhaps more mundane but nevertheless essential aim of genuine and prompt poverty alleviation, as had happened frequently in the past. No true benefit would result unless priority for the social sector was acknowledged by the multilateral financial institutions and development cooperation funds, with a consequent application of a much higher proportion of assistance to such necessities as health and education. International cooperation had helped to modernize the third world, and the multilateral financial institutions were showing some preference for social targets, but much more needed to be done, not simply because it made good business sense, as a number of previous speakers had pointed out, but because a sense of duty was involved.

82. His delegation appreciated the high standard of the current deliberations and expressed its full support for the efforts to ensure the success of the World Summit.

83. Mr. AL-AOUN (Kuwait) said that the Secretary-General's report on the World Summit (E/1993/77) reflected the importance of adequate preparation for that event. The three core issues, social integration, poverty alleviation and productive employment creation, called for serious research. The aim of the Summit should be to provide means to achieve the common goal of alleviating the current suffering not only in the developing countries but throughout the world, avoiding sterile North-South confrontation and recognizing that national efforts alone could not succeed without adequate international support.

84. The current session was especially important in that it provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the development of strategies and methods to improve decision-taking relating to the wide range of issues, such as strengthening the roles of women and youth, with a view to social development, which in turn would enhance the security and stability of individuals and nations.

85. Considerable progress had been made in Kuwait in many social fields, such as education, housing and family care, since it was recognized that social deprivation

was often at the root of human rights problems. Social welfare services had not yet been restored to the level that had prevailed up to August 1990, but great efforts were being made to restore the standards and improve them. Kuwait was also assisting other countries in the establishment of social development programmes. It looked forward to an exchange of experiences, in that regard, at the forthcoming Summit. Kuwait also called for the cancellation of poor countries' external debts, and had cancelled the amounts owed to it by other countries.

86. The World Summit should concentrate, *inter alia*, on services to children and youth, the elderly, women and other disadvantaged sectors of society, with the aim of promoting overall social development. Very important in that regard was the effort to divert some of the burden of social assistance from the State to the private sector, with a view to alleviating national budgets. Kuwait fully supported the role of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, and the many cornerstones, such as the Beijing and Manila Declarations, on which the world community could rely in drawing up strategies for social development. Kuwait would go on doing its utmost to participate in all international cooperation efforts.

87. Mr. DORJI (Bhutan) said that his Government welcomed the Egyptian Government's decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. It also appreciated the Danish Government's offer to host the World Summit for Social Development, and thanked the President of the Council for his contribution in regard to that event.

88. Bhutan had an enlightened monarch in the person of His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who had always maintained that the Government and the people were not separate: the people were not passive recipients of aid but active participants in planning, implementing and evaluating projects. Bhutan's development plans for the past three decades had placed maximum emphasis on human development, with the generous cooperation of friends and donors. Education and health services were provided free to all Bhutanese. And ecological concerns, not the motive to make a quick profit, dictated forestry and land-use policies.

89. Since his delegation's observations were similar in substance to those of previous speakers, he would refrain from further comment.

90. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt) said that the World Summit would provide a historic opportunity, calling for great efforts and cooperation by all, for real progress in social development. His delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's statement at the previous meeting and his proposals, which would provide a valuable basis for discussion during the Summit.

91. Despite the revolutionary advances in communications, wide gaps between rich and poor persisted throughout the world. The Security Council's recognition, at its January 1992 Summit Meeting, of non-military threats to peace and security had drawn attention to the need to reduce such contradictions in the world economic and social situation and thereby promote social peace. As could be seen from the UNDP *Human Development Report 1992*,[3] the gap between rich and poor had roughly doubled during the past 30 years, despite the revolution in contacts and communications. It was significant, in that regard, that the Vienna Conference on Human Rights had recognized development as an inalienable human right.

92. In order to ensure credibility, the work of the Summit must avoid double standards. For example, if the market economy was to be taken as the model for progress, the developed nations must genuinely open their own markets to the third world. As shown in the *Human Development Report 1992*, protectionism cost the developing countries roughly ten times the value of the assistance they received.

93. In any distribution arrangements in national economies, social justice must prevail. That was why Egypt had set up a national social fund. International mechanisms, however, did not always reflect justice. For example, such mechanisms ensured that financial arrangements always worked to the benefit of the developed countries, but restricted the freedom of developing countries in areas in which the latter would have a relative advantage, such as labour-intensive industries. In future there must be a single criterion for all.

94. Economic, social and political development were three essential factors. The development of free markets required a parallel enhancement of respect for human rights and increased freedom of choice for the individual. Attempts to impose certain outside values and frameworks on national societies would endanger freedom and democracy. Therefore, all international effort must be based on equity and respect for individual cultural and religious traditions, as well as recognition of the task of the individual State in ensuring national stability whenever the free market machinery might fail to do so. And the experience of one country was not necessarily valid for another. It should be recalled that the current lengthy economic crisis was largely the result of allowing market forces free rein.

95. Population growth was a further impediment to sustainable development. Therefore, adequate preparation should be made for the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in 1994. The outcome of that Conference could provide a further input to the World Summit on Social Development.

96. His delegation pledged its full cooperation with the Council at its current session and in all preparations for the forthcoming Summit.

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[3] Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1992.

97. Mr. URRUTIA (Peru) said that, although the cold war had ended, the world community's expectations were being undermined by the growing threat to international peace and security stemming from severe poverty, environmental degradation, terrorism and extreme nationalism. The overriding aim of the World Summit must be to identify the growing social problems and draw up plans for rapid action to avoid an irreversible deterioration of the world social situation, while not overlooking the close interrelationship of economic, social and political aspects.

98. The end of the cold war had led to a fundamental change in the framework of international relations, aimed at new goals. But the change had not led hitherto to enhanced social development. On the contrary, the *Report on the World Social Situation 1993* (E/1993/50/Rev.1) showed an accelerating rise in poverty and unemployment, national and international imbalances, and population growth unmatched by employment opportunities, suffered by developed and developing countries alike and calling for an overhaul of the international economic structure through dialogue and cooperation. If world peace and security were assessed in terms of food, medicine, work, health and housing, it was clear that the world was in danger.

99. Democracy and a market economy had been upheld as the solution. But democracy was not simply a theory and must be viewed in practice: there could be no single universally applicable "democratic system". Similarly, market forces alone could not ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and efficient resource allocation. Therefore, individual countries and the world community as a whole must take positive steps to harmonize economic and social policies at the national, regional and international levels, and strengthen the means of unconditional international cooperation.

100. Peru attached great importance to the convening of the World Summit, the idea of which had been initiated by the President of Chile. It was no coincidence that the initiative stemmed from a country of Latin America, a region which had been facing serious problems stemming from the implementation of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes. Peru was one of the countries affected. According to recent estimates, some 12 million persons were living in conditions of severe poverty, the situation of some 5 million being dire. The Government was providing them with social assistance, including programmes for food, health, education and job creation, all of which relied on a recovery in the national economy in order to provide for the requisite social spending.

101. He reaffirmed his country's belief in international cooperation, solidarity among Governments and the desirability of drawing up an instrument on social development, at the national and international levels, in order to combat poverty.

102. The efforts of the Peruvian Government and people were hampered by terrorism, which had been responsible for the loss of 25,000 lives and over $25 billion. Nevertheless, the Government and people would make every possible effort to eradicate that blemish, using all legitimate means to protect the vast majority of Peruvians who wished to live in peace and democracy, with respect for human rights. As noted by the World Conference on Human Rights, terrorism sought, *inter alia*, to destroy human rights and fundamental freedoms, overthrow democracy and destabilize legally constituted Governments. His Government reiterated the call, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), for the international community to adopt the necessary measures to strengthen cooperation in preventing terrorism.

103. Peru would continue to work for the success of the Summit.

104. Mr. SAMUELSSON (Observer for Sweden) said that his delegation welcomed the statement made by the Secretary-General to the high-level segment at its previous meeting, and reaffirmed Sweden's readiness to contribute to the efforts devoted to social development.

105. At the Council's 1992 substantive session, the Nordic countries had formally introduced reform proposals concerning governance and financing for United Nations development activities. During the past year the proposals had been dealt with in an open-ended negotiating group in New York under the General Assembly. The negotiations had been difficult and time-consuming; finally, however, a compromise had been reached, all countries and groups having made substantial concessions, the formality of adoption by the General Assembly being the only remaining step. On 25 June, at the resumed session of the General Assembly, Colombia had requested, on behalf of some of the Group of 77, that no action should be taken on the agreed package; 70 countries had voted in favour, and thus no action had resulted.

106. The Nordic countries had negotiated in good faith with open intentions all along, their only interest being to strengthen the system in its vital development work. Since they accounted for more than a quarter of the Organization's development resources they were deeply concerned about the development impact. In their project they had extensively analysed the problems and, during countless bilateral and multilateral consultations and seminars over the past two years, had received widespread support for the conclusions drawn. They were extremely concerned about the fact that the negotiations completed in an open and transparent manner were not adhered to. To back away from a negotiated agreement sent a strong signal that negotiations and agreements were not taken seriously.

107. The Nordic countries' commitment to development assistance would not falter, but their commitment to the United Nations ran the risk of being jeopardized if

negotiated agreements were not kept. The countries that had instigated the action would carry a heavy responsibility for the consequences.

108. The studies in the Nordic United Nations project had shown clearly that United Nations development assistance had not achieved the potential results. It was not only in the Nordic countries' interest but, even more so, in the interest of the recipient countries to have a strong, effective and relevant system, delivering the maximum amount of development for each available dollar.

109. The studies had shown a very clear and distinct migration of tasks from the Organization to the Bretton Woods institutions; indeed, the present and previous Presidents of the World Bank had complained publicly about the vacuum in crucial policy areas left by the United Nations. Since the Organization should be a prime driving force in development, the issue had to be addressed at once.

110. Certain things could and should be improved in the Organization's system of development assistance. But without question two key areas, governance and financing, must be changed in order for change to be possible and sustainable in other areas.

111. Governance called for strong influence by member countries on policy and priorities, and strong influence by management in implementation: more macro-management, and much less micro-management. And improved governance needed long-term, sustained and substantial funding.

112. The growing demands for emergency relief and for long-term development funding, and the growing difficulties in resource mobilization, called for a sharper cutting edge both in terms of policy formulation and development action. Otherwise, interest, commitment and funding would increasingly go elsewhere, to the detriment of those most in need of what the United Nations could offer.

113. For those reasons, the Swedish Government was committed to reforms in the United Nations development system, and was disappointed at the recent decision in the General Assembly. As the Secretary-General had said, there was a risk of serious consequences for the Organization's development efforts; and those most affected would be the poor and vulnerable, especially in Africa, who so deserved attention.

Mr. Somavía, the President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Conclusion of the high-level segment

114. The PRESIDENT summarized the deliberations of the high-level segment and informed the Council that the text of the summary would be circulated.

115. Before closing the meeting, he wished to share some thoughts on how the high-level segment could proceed in the future.

116. First, three days were clearly not enough; at least one more day should be made available. Secondly, he thought it would be more interesting and productive to divide each three-hour meeting into two parts—statements and an exchange of views, questions and answers. Thirdly, the high-level segment should each year issue talking-points, perhaps two distinct topics, for discussion elsewhere. Fourthly, he felt that it would be helpful for representatives of the various programmes of the United Nations system to be present at meetings of the high-level segment. Fifthly, he thought that the statements delivered should be published by the Secretariat. He would discuss those ideas with the members of the Bureau and any interested delegations.

117. He declared concluded the work of the high-level segment at the current session.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.

Other meetings (18th to 49th meetings)

18th meeting

Thursday, 1 July 1993, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.18

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the provisional agenda (E/1993/100) and drew its attention to a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/1993/L.22/Rev.1). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda in section I of document E/1993/100.

It was so decided [decision 1993/221, para 2 (*a*)].

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the proposed programme of work in document E/1993/L.21.

3. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 member countries of the European Community, said it was important that, in future, all the documents for a session should be made available to Member States at the proper time, in final form and in all languages. He particularly urged that the six-week rule should be respected.

4. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council how difficult it had been for the participants in the organizational session to agree on the items to be included in the provisional agenda and suggested that it should be prepared earlier.

5. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed programme of work in document E/1993/L.21.

It was so decided [decision 1993/221, para. 2 (*a*)].

6. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1993/87) containing requests from non-governmental organizations for hearings under the various items of the Council's agenda. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation made in paragraph 2 of the report.

It was so decided [decision 1993/221, para. 2 (b)].

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development

7. The PRESIDENT said that General Assembly resolution 46/182 on strengthening the coordination of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance continued to be the basis for the Council's work on agenda item 2. The question was not that of examining the mandate of each of the international organizations, but of ensuring that their work was better coordinated. After the discussion, the Council should arrive at concerted conclusions on the item.

8. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) said that some 15 months had elapsed since the Secretary-General had established the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and appointed him as Emergency Relief Coordinator. In that short period, the United Nations had helped to coordinate the humanitarian response to at least 20 emergency situations; 22 consolidated appeals had been launched representing some $6 billion for emergency response in more than 30 countries. As far as the magnitude of those crises was concerned, the figures spoke for themselves: 18 million

refugees, 30 million displaced persons, 100 million unexploded mines. Dealing with the ever growing number of humanitarian emergencies constituted an extraordinary challenge for the international community and new ground for the United Nations. The past year's experience showed that humanitarian assistance must be a collective effort.

9. It also showed that humanitarian assistance had become an integral and sometimes central feature of the maintenance of peace and security. Humanitarian assistance was now at the top of the agenda of several United Nations bodies, including the Security Council. The establishment of relief corridors and similar arrangements could also be used to build bridges between parties in conflict. The purpose of humanitarian assistance must always be the relief of life-threatening suffering, based on humanity, neutrality and impartiality. After an intensive period of practical experience, he could confidently state that resolution 46/182 provided a strong basis for the coordination of emergency assistance.

10. The report of the Secretary-General before the Council (E/1993/90) touched on practical issues of coordination, identified constraints, put forward ideas for enhancing the timeliness and effectiveness of humanitarian response and proposed steps to ensure the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development. The conclusions reached by the Council would be of great importance for the implementation of the mandate defined in resolution 46/182 and for the review of the overall implementation of the resolution to take place at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

11. There were several issues at the heart of humanitarian coordination and interaction. First among them were preparedness and prevention. Speedy action could save many human lives and prevent much material damage. The disaster management training programme, jointly managed by UNDP and DHA, should become a central feature of the international emergency management system. A second essential element was the quality of information. Thanks to generous bilateral assistance, a start had been made on developing an emergency management information system, but much remained to be done. A third element was financing. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund should be used to finance relief action from the initial stages of an emergency situation. Mr. Eliasson had frequently had difficulty in raising funds for special missions, needs assessments and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms in the field, all tasks for which none of the operational agencies had direct responsibility. He hoped that the Council would address that issue. One solution would be to institute special arrangements within the Central Emergency Revolving Fund or to provide special resources for use by the Coordinator.

12. The timeliness of humanitarian response, one of the main objectives of resolution 46/182, was another vital factor. The time which elapsed between the occurrence of a crisis and the mounting of an effective response by the United Nations must be reduced. In some instances, the deployment of an emergency response team during the initial phase of the crisis could play a critical role. The deployment of such teams would be of value in cases where the United Nations lacked an emergency response capacity in the field—as in Georgia or Tajikistan, for example. Such teams, drawn mainly from the staff of the United Nations system, would be accountable to the Secretary-General through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. They would be responsible, for a limited period, for needs assessment and, in some cases, for providing urgent relief and preparing the ground for field coordination arrangements.

13. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee had met several times since its inception and discussed several important issues. It could play an even more active role in the formulation of policies, strategies and programmes. The inter-agency coordination mechanism was of vital importance in being able to provide a coherent and speedy response to humanitarian emergencies, including the assignment of responsibilities and the designation, in specific cases, of an agency with primary responsibility under the overall coordination of DHA. Through the speedy collection of information and the preparation of recommendations within the framework of the Inter-Agency Working Group, the Department must be able to underpin the work of the Standing Committee and follow up on its decisions. He was grateful to those organizations of the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations which had made staff available to the Department, since that greatly facilitated its coordination role. He hoped that those organizations which had not yet been able to second staff would do so in the near future.

14. DHA was a field-oriented department and its staff was conscious of the many problems that organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and bilateral donors had to face on the ground. In some complex emergency situations, the Secretary-General had appointed a special representative and the coordination of humanitarian assistance had been entrusted to a coordinator working in the field under the overall authority of the special representative. It was the resident coordinator, however, who normally coordinated the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system at the country level. He had recently taken a number of steps to strengthen the links between resident coordinators and the Department and to improve the flow of information in both directions. It was also important for the resident coordinators to have enough resources to be able to perform their task.

15. When an emergency occurred, DHA must rapidly decide on the adequacy of the field coordination arrangements. In some instances, it was necessary to strengthen the local team or to create a special emergency coordination unit. All those engaged in the response to a humanitarian emergency must be clear about all those arrangements and must be fully accountable, since a lack of accountability had given rise to criticism in the past.

16. One of the major achievements of the past 15 months had been the consolidated appeal. The most successful appeals had been those prepared on the basis of careful work in the field, with the participation of host Governments, donors and non-governmental organizations. That was an important lesson. Governments must be encouraged to take responsibility for responding to emergency situations in their own countries. The United Nations could provide valuable support and help in the mobilization of resources. It must not be thought, however, that every emergency situation required the elaboration of a consolidated appeal. Such appeals should be used selectively when there was a true need. It was also necessary to be ready to establish priorities and not simply to list demands.

17. While thanking the donor community for its steadfast commitment to the humanitarian cause, he emphasized that the overwhelming number of emergencies was placing an enormous strain on the resources available. As a result, resources were increasingly being channelled to those emergency situations which had captured the attention of public opinion. He believed it was his duty to ensure that the humanitarian imperative was respected and that relief was provided in accordance with the principles of humanity and impartiality. Were the victims of emergencies extensively covered by the media more deserving of assistance than those in equal but silent distress elsewhere? That was, fundamentally, a moral question to which there was no easy solution. He nevertheless believed that it should be discussed in the Council or in the General Assembly.

18. The need to ensure a continuum from relief to development had been the subject of much theoretical discussion. What was now needed was a practical strategy. Humanitarian relief must be compatible with long-term development efforts and not create the kind of dependency which made a new emergency all too probable. National and local organizations and personnel must be given the opportunity to play a full role. Very often, cultural and linguistic differences made that difficult, but reinforcing local capacity made it easier for a country to deal with a new emergency. He hoped that the development agencies would consider establishing creative funding mechanisms. He also attached great importance to the involvement of the main development organizations, notably the World Bank and UNDP, from the earliest stages of an emergency so that needs assessments, relief programmes and consolidated appeals took full account of rehabilitation and development requirements. He hoped that that aspect could be discussed in the near future at a meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, with the participation of the Bretton Woods institutions and other development agencies. It would be increasingly difficult to cope with emergencies if their root causes, whether political, social or economic, were not seriously addressed.

19. At present, all too little was heard of the successes of the United Nations. Nevertheless, experience in the humanitarian response to the southern African drought of 1992 was convincing proof that coordination could work. Unprecedented regional and international cooperation, combined with the mobilization of significant resources by the member States of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, as well as the mechanisms established by the drought-affected communities had helped to avert a major famine in southern Africa. One of the most important mechanisms had been the logistics centre in Harare, jointly staffed by the World Food Programme and the Conference in a unique cooperative effort among Governments, relief organizations and shipping agencies. Prevention had been rewarded, even if it had not been fully recognized internationally.

20. The common objective of all the bodies working to provide emergency humanitarian relief—whether organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and regional organizations, Member States or non-governmental organizations—was to save the lives of human beings in desperate need and give them the opportunity to lead a life in dignity. Those human beings must be at the centre of concern. As a coordinating body, the task of DHA was to facilitate the work of the operational agencies and their implementing partners. It did not aspire to be involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. However, it could not carry out the task assigned to it if it remained closeted in its Headquarters offices. It must know thoroughly the situation in the field and play a full part in fact-finding and needs assessment missions, in the in-country preparation of consolidated appeals and in the strengthening of field coordination units. But there should be no confusion: the Department was not an implementing agency.

21. Much remained to be done in the humanitarian arena. The task was formidable, but an important corner had been turned with the establishment of the coordination mechanisms envisaged in resolution 46/182. The need was to refine the existing instruments and develop new ones in order to alleviate suffering and prove that multilateralism and solidarity worked.

22. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that, despite its successful efforts to deal with emergency situations, DHA was not yet fully recognized as the cornerstone of United Nations humanitarian assistance. In that respect, the Community emphasized that the Department should concentrate first on major and complex emergencies and that its role within the United Nations system should have two main aspects: vertical coordination, between the political affairs, peacekeeping and humanitarian activities sectors, and horizontal coordination, aimed at distributing tasks and responsibilities among the various organizations according to their respective fields of competence.

23. The European Community and its member States hoped that the purposes of resolution 46/182 would be fully achieved and that the Department would play an effective guiding role in coordination by facilitating

humanitarian assistance in accordance with the criteria of speed, flexibility and effectiveness. It would not seem desirable to establish a fixed model for the Department's representation in the field. It nevertheless needed a structure that would place it firmly at the centre of the humanitarian assistance network, both for the preparation and for the execution of activities.

24. As far as funding was concerned, consolidated appeals had proved their usefulness, but they needed to be further refined. They should be used selectively for complex emergencies which required system-wide intervention and priorities should be clearly defined. As to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the figures showed that it had been effectively used by United Nations bodies. It should be based on the principles of flexibility, the speedy issuing of advances and full reimbursement. The Community would like to know whether the organizations were satisfied with the conditions for access to the Central Fund and, if not, what proposals they had for making the rules for access and use more flexible.

25. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee would appear to be the coordination instrument that was best suited to the circumstances. The Community was surprised, however, that it had met only three times since its establishment and recommended that recourse to it should be more frequent. The Committee's decisions should be more action-oriented. It could also define policies and strategies for the newly affected regions and for such new problems as mine clearance and displaced persons.

26. There was undeniably an interdependence between emergency assistance, on the one hand, and rehabilitation and development, on the other. The Community would like more specific information on the contribution that DHA could make to the transition to development. For reasons of transparency and effectiveness, the two types of activity must, however, be clearly distinguished, both for the purpose of consolidated appeals and for the distribution of tasks among the organizations.

27. In conclusion, the European Community and its member States reaffirmed the need to guarantee the access of the peoples affected to humanitarian assistance, independently of all political, ideological or other considerations. There was no universal solution for humanitarian tasks. Emergency situations would continue to arise throughout the world. There was no room for pessimism, however, and determination and flexibility should be the guiding principles in bringing assistance to the victims.

28. Mrs. ALBRIGHT (United States of America) said that she had been struck by the growing linkage between peace-keeping and humanitarian relief operations. The tragedies of the present day were making such assistance increasingly necessary, costly and difficult to organize. In order to be able to deal with emergency situations while making the best possible use of its scarce resources, the United Nations must plan carefully and coordinate its humanitarian interventions, taking fully into account the military, political and other factors that might come into play.

29. War and violence were causing countless victims and disrupting economic activity, and that meant that DHA must be more closely involved in decisions on peace-keeping and political affairs. The coordination of effort would avoid working at cross-purposes and could have other beneficial effects.

30. It was also vital to intervene early. Where human lives were at stake, it went without saying that prevention was better than cure. Preventive diplomacy required comprehensive and reliable information. United Nations bodies must therefore pool their data on emerging crises and respond by taking political or humanitarian action or a combination of the two. What was essential was that measures should be coordinated and mutually reinforcing.

31. The provision of early warning information in such a way as to form the basis for timely decision-making by the Secretary-General was essential to enable the United Nations to formulate appropriate policies, take speedy preventive action in emergency-prone countries and assist the agencies of the United Nations system in accelerating the provision of relief when an emergency occurred. The United Nations response in southern Africa during the 1992 drought emergency showed how effective that process could be: through speedy and coordinated action, a disaster had been prevented and lives had been saved.

32. There should be better coordination between the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and those responsible for peace-keeping and political affairs. Under the leadership of the Department, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee should become a truly policy-making body and create a culture of cooperation within the United Nations system in order to ensure that action was as effective as possible. Coordination could also be improved in the field, taking into account the comparative advantages of the different United Nations agencies.

33. With regard to resources, consideration must be given to the possibility of strengthening the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, funding an expanded field presence in an emergency and tapping the resources of donors more successfully through consolidated appeals.

34. There must also be a continuum from emergency relief to development. The Department must call on development experts early, consult them regularly and see that problems which had been thought to be solved did not give rise to fresh emergencies.

35. The Department and the United Nations as a whole were doing very useful work, helping to save the lives of thousands of people and giving them hope. Because of the political dimension of many humanitarian missions

and the terrible frustrations experienced in some areas, it was useful to reaffirm the principle that, once the United Nations had authorized the delivery of humanitarian aid, no power on earth had the right to prevent its delivery. It was incumbent on all alike to see that that principle was respected, although it was to be hoped that the need for such assistance would diminish steadily over time.

36. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that disasters and emergencies demanded, first and foremost, coordinated management at the country level. The General Assembly had specified that resident coordinators should normally be responsible for the in-country coordination of humanitarian assistance (resolution 46/182) and had decided to expand their mandate and authority (resolution 47/199). Most resident coordinators were the UNDP resident representatives, a solution which had proved excellent. Three points should be stressed in that regard.

37. First, the role of UNDP was to facilitate and support the efforts of the resident coordinators to ensure that the United Nations system functioned as a team at the country level. Action was more effective when it was organized in the field. Before any headquarters-level arrangements were made, it should be asked whether the arrangements in question would directly support the front-line managers and provide them with the necessary tools to fulfil the enormous expectations placed upon them by the international community.

38. Secondly, all potential participants in a disaster or emergency situation must understand ahead of time what their roles were to be, where to turn for resources and what their relationship with other partners was to be. It was vital to define with absolute clarity the roles of the various United Nations actors at all stages of relief and development. UNDP and DHA had made joint suggestions for improving their collaboration in the field and at Headquarters. Under the leadership of the Department, all United Nations bodies must seek to work more effectively as a team.

39. Thirdly, it was vital to ensure that there were well-functioning disaster management teams at the country level. They should be made standing bodies capable of intervening in advance. Under the chairmanship of the resident coordinators, those teams had a key role to play in emergency management as well as in rehabilitation and development.

40. UNDP country offices had provided resident coordinators with valuable support. In the case of natural disasters requiring only a few weeks of relief, they could respond immediately, with the help, when required, of specialists from the Department. Those emergencies which demanded years of relief effort, however, could not depend solely on their presence. In several African countries, bilateral donors had provided generous financial support to emergency coordination units administered by UNDP. In some cases, as in Somalia and Mozambique, those units had become the nucleus for inter-agency coordination.

41. In response to General Assembly resolution 46/182, UNDP had undertaken a disaster management training programme, jointly managed with DHA. In the past two years, more than 1,000 people had been trained, including Government and United Nations system personnel, representatives of non-governmental organizations and bilateral aid donors. Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States had provided the programme with generous support and several other countries had also expressed interest. Under the same resolution, UNDP resident representatives in countries hit by disaster had been given increased authority. Until recently, national and international development organizations had been almost totally uninvolved in efforts for the prevention and mitigation of disaster. Today, it was recognized that those were mainstream development issues. The long-term reintegration of uprooted populations provided an excellent example. Experience showed that the return of those populations must be accompanied—and sometimes preceded—by a long-term package of economic and social assistance. However, to move from relatively short-term, quick impact projects to longer-term sustainable development efforts required considerable and sustained financial support.

42. The issue of financial support was becoming critical. Billions of dollars were currently needed for peace-keeping operations. A great deal was spent on repairing errors which could have been avoided if more had been invested in human development. Moreover, there seemed to be a dangerous trend among traditional donors to shift resources from development cooperation towards short-term support of emergency relief efforts. The principle of a continuum from relief to development was universally accepted, but the financial implications must be faced. Furthermore, the General Assembly had recently taken a decision nullifying the outcome of long and difficult negotiations on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. If the proposed reforms could not be agreed to, the already limited financial resources of the United Nations system could be further cut back. It was most distressing that the inspired proposals of the Nordic countries had been shelved.

43. None the less, UNDP stood ready to support DHA in tackling emergency situations. In conclusion, he emphasized that the price of prevention was always less than that of remedial action and that the road to peace was through sustainable development, the goal towards which all efforts must be directed.

44. Mr. SAMUELSSON (Observer for Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that General Assembly resolution 46/182 had marked an important step forward for the United Nations response to emergencies and that Member States had clearly confirmed the leadership of the Secretary-General in those situations. The report before the Council (E/1993/90) re-

flected the progress made since then. Nevertheless, much more needed to be done to allow the United Nations system to react more efficiently to emergency situations. The Council should give guidance on further improvements and Member States should see to it that the General Assembly gave the agencies concerned clear and consistent signals to engage in coordinated efforts. Primary responsibility for the response to emergencies lay with three major partners: the Secretary-General and his Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Member States, developed and developing alike. In the view of the Nordic countries, the partners needed to go forward together on five fronts.

45. The first front was the close correlation between the political and humanitarian dimensions of complex emergencies, as illustrated by the cases of Somalia and Mozambique. The relations between humanitarian emergency assistance, political matters and peace-keeping were of central importance and should be discussed at the next session of the General Assembly. Particular attention should be paid to the need to safeguard the neutrality of emergency assistance.

46. Secondly, the mechanisms created in resolution 46/182 (the Coordinator, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, consolidated appeals and the Central Emergency Revolving Fund) were now in place and needed only to be used effectively. The primary role of the Coordinator and his co-workers was to provide leadership for the response of the United Nations system. In the case of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, division of labour, field coordination arrangements, information management, disaster management training, gaps in the responses to emergencies and the continuum from humanitarian assistance to development were all issues on which it could ensure constructive inter-agency cooperation. Consolidated appeals were excellent tools for achieving an integrated response to an emergency situation and were gradually being refined. It was to be hoped that they would be increasingly oriented to field operations and that joint programming, the establishment of priorities and follow-up would be improved. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund might need further adjustment after the thorough review provided for in resolution 46/182. The Nordic countries would welcome concrete proposals in that respect at the coming session of the General Assembly.

47. The third issue that should be highlighted was the relationship between emergency assistance and long-term development. The important problem of the continuum needed to be dealt with in a more operational way within the United Nations system, as well as between it, the Bretton Woods institutions, the bilateral donors and the non-governmental organizations. The Nordic countries welcomed the attention paid to that issue at the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in Rome in April and the decision recently taken in that connection by the Governing Council of UNDP. They urged the Secretary-General and all parts of the United Nations system to clarify the role of the different agencies and to ensure that the continuum concept was integrated in United Nations development activities.

48. On the fourth front, preparedness and prevention, the Nordic countries looked forward to further and more rational integration of the work in connection with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction[1] and the responsibilities of the Department for Humanitarian Affairs.

49. Lastly, his delegation recalled that United Nations capacity to respond to emergencies was closely linked to the availability of resources. The budget constraints that confronted the Department were unacceptable in an area of such high priority. Consequently, the outcome of the current budget process in the United Nations should lead to the Department's core activities being integrated into the regular budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

50. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) said that, from the perspective of UNFPA and non-governmental organizations, four issues deserved attention: the relationship between population factors and social instability; the need to protect the reproductive rights of women in emergency situations; the need to integrate population concerns throughout the continuum of emergency, reconstruction and development; and the role of women in that continuum.

51. On the first point, the current social, economic and demographic situation (5.6 billion human beings, with an annual increment in the next decade of about 95 million) indicated that there was likely to be considerable population movement in the years ahead: each year, one million people permanently emigrated illegally and close to that number sought asylum abroad. Several million more were also on the move, residing illegally in countries other than their own. There had also been rapid growth in the number of refugees, which had increased from 2.8 million in 1976 to 17.3 million in 1990. Rapid population growth, persistent poverty, the urban population explosion, the lack of productive employment, environmental degradation and the lack of sustainability in the development process were among the root causes of social instability, political conflicts and, sometimes, even natural disasters.

52. On the second point, she recalled that it was women who were the most vulnerable group in emergency situations, as could be seen in the former Yugoslavia, where they had been subjected to systematic gender-based violence, including rape. In all emergency situations, such as famine, natural disaster or conflict, special attention must therefore be paid to providing assistance responding to women's needs for basic services and to protecting them against gender-based violence. Particular attention needed to be given to their reproductive health needs. So far, humanitarian assistance programmes had responded inadequately to non-food sector needs. Many groups, such as women, young adolescents,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex.

pregnant women, nursing mothers and women needing to control their fertility, had been neglected. It was essential for women and men to have access to information and counselling that would enable them to exercise their reproductive rights in periods of dislocation, regardless of the cause. Modalities must be established, not only within the United Nations system, but also making use of the relevant non-governmental organizations.

53. Tragically, women, because of their gender, were subject to situations of rape, as a consequence of which they were likely to be ostracized by their own families and communities. Assistance programmes should therefore encompass counselling for social rehabilitation, literacy and education programmes to meet the education needs of young girls whose schooling had been disrupted, skill development training with the objective of preparing women to become economically independent, programmes to acquaint women with their rights, including in crisis situations, and programmes to organize or strengthen women's organizations fighting to promote women's rights.

54. On the third point, relating to the need to integrate population questions, health and family planning in the relief to development continuum, experience showed that any delay in meeting that need invariably increased the cost of development efforts in the future. Within the availability of its resources and in the context of its mandate, UNFPA would participate in the coordinated humanitarian efforts of the United Nations system. It could help, together with other United Nations organs and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen maternal and child health services, including family planning. It could also help to generate the population and other data essential for the planning of rehabilitation and development programmes and public health services.

55. The pivotal role of women in the entire continuum should be recognized and they should be allowed to participate fully in the process. The achievement of long-term development goals would be impossible unless all men and women were given the opportunity to exercise their basic human rights, including reproductive rights. For that purpose, countries needed well-established policies, institutions and programmes. There should be a commitment on the part of the international community to help them in that direction.

56. As she had stated at the Council's preceding session, UNFPA supported the Nordic countries' proposal for the reform of the operational activities of the United Nations, including the setting up of small executive boards to strengthen overall guidance. The proposal was particularly attractive because of the link to increased and stable financing of United Nations development activities. As the Secretary-General had stated (16th meeting), failure to achieve progress on that reform would be a missed opportunity for the world community and the chance might not recur.

57. Mr. ORLIANGE (France), speaking on a point of order, said that, in its decision 1992/217, the Council had established guidelines for the debate on coordination questions which it was now holding. It had been agreed that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies should circulate the text of their statements in advance, but that had not been done. It had also been envisaged that the debate would begin with précis presentations of the executive heads' statements, but that had not been the case either. The executive heads were supposed to identify the problems they encountered with regard to coordination, including with Member States, but there seemed to be no question of that.

58. The purpose of the discussion was to start a dialogue between United Nations agencies and Member States, but, so far, the meeting had been given over to long statements. His delegation regretted that the Council was not keeping to the rules it had set for itself.

59. Mrs. KARRE (Observer for Sweden) said that she endorsed the comments by the French delegation. At the next session, the executive heads invited might sit on the podium, a position which would perhaps be more conducive to the hoped-for dialogue.

60. The PRESIDENT said that practical constraints sometimes made it impossible to distribute the text of statements in advance. The French delegation must admit that the statements of the executive heads were specific and dealt exactly with the question under consideration. They seemed to respond to the wishes of delegations which had wanted to have an overall view of coordination problems. As to the dialogue to be established for that purpose, he was ready to give the floor to any delegation which wished to question an executive head.

61. At all events, the Bureau would take the comments of the French delegation into account and, as far as possible, amend the Council's methods of work.

62. Ms. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that the last decade of the century was characterized by the break-up of nations, ethnic conflicts and devastating natural disasters. Those events had given the United Nations new roles and responsibilities; the Organization was seen as the leader in humanitarian activities on which hopes for peace and justice were based. However, the scope of humanitarian needs far outweighed the international community's capacity. The situation called for structural, operational and, above all, cultural change.

63. The new era was one of shared endeavours, cooperation and rationalization. The creation of DHA had been a response to that desire. That step had been the result of three factors: the ineffectiveness of the United Nations, as evidenced by the Gulf crisis; the growing number and increased complexity of emergencies; and the need for a corporate vision that extended to political and security issues. The aim was clear: to provide the

leadership needed to mobilize the system as a whole in complex emergencies.

64. When it had established the Department, the General Assembly had confirmed two principles: one, that the coordination function was an integral part of the Secretariat's role; and, two, that United Nations political, operational and security components must work in unison to meet humanitarian objectives.

65. Looking back over some 18 months, Canada had made a summary evaluation of the progress achieved and drawn a number of conclusions. The first was that the coordination function rightly belonged to the Secretariat and must have the Secretary-General's absolute support. The second was that the objectives of collegiality and community of interests remained to be achieved. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee was the cornerstone of a coordinated inter-agency approach and it was its responsibility to orchestrate key issues or, in other words, to decide the roles of the various stakeholders, to develop uniform operational standards, to institute consistent sharing of information and to instil a corporate vision of reconstruction and development.

66. The third conclusion was that the Department's human and financial resources were inadequate. It was an integral part of the Secretariat and its resources should come from the regular budget. Fourthly, some adjustments were called for in the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Consolidated appeals must better reflect realities in the field and demonstrate financial realism. Inter-agency need evaluation missions should become standard procedure, as should programme evaluations. The fifth and last conclusion was that DHA had neglected communications. That was a disconcerting gap, since support for United Nations humanitarian activities depended on public opinion in Member States.

67. There was no doubt that the early days of the Department had been difficult, despite the dedication and the determination of its team. The lesson should be learned, so that the same mistakes were not made in the future. Experience showed that it took time for any bureaucracy to accept that corporate interests must supersede individual ones. In the case in point, time was precious and the system must respond quickly, effectively and "visibly". The second lesson was that the United Nations system could adapt, could work as one, and could deliver at reasonable cost.

68. The Canadian Government expected the Department to show leadership and to be supported by agencies in the field. Canada would hold the agencies accountable in that respect and would also hold the Department accountable for providing the needed leadership. Secondly, it expected corporate behaviour: United Nations interests must prevail over agency interests. Information sharing was essential. The Department should not establish its own field network, but should be able to count on agencies already there. Some complex emergencies could require ad hoc representation of the Department in the field.

69. Canada also expected coherence. The various aspects of emergencies (political, humanitarian and security) could not be dealt with in isolation and such coherence was one of the Department's responsibilities. Financial responsibility was also necessary. Appeals launched by the Department in the past 12 months had totalled more than $6 billion, or twice the yearly budget of the Canadian International Development Agency. Priorities must be established and costs reduced. Lastly, Canada expected a long-term vision from the Department. Responses to emergency situations must set the stage for development. From that point of view, an emergency could be described as development "in crisis". Other phases could be defined as " development in transition" or "development in action". At all times, development must remain the objective.

70. She noted that her delegation had circulated an unofficial document containing recommendations for the coordination of humanitarian assistance which the Council might wish to use in summing up the debate.

71. Mr. JOLLY (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund), welcoming the comments of the representative of France and the observer for Sweden on the need for a dialogue with the representatives of the specialized agencies, said that he would summarize the main points of his statement, the text of which had been circulated to delegations. UNICEF hoped that the current substantive session would lead to the establishment of a framework of priorities and guidance for its Executive Board and its secretariat. He associated himself also with the statements by Mr. Draper and Mrs. Sadik and hoped that the process of reforming the management and funding of the United Nations system could be successfully completed in the shortest possible time.

72. The importance of humanitarian assistance could not be over-emphasized. More than 1,000 UNICEF staff were currently engaged in humanitarian actions in 10 different countries caught up in complex emergencies. The share of total programme resources of the Fund's expenditure on emergency assistance had reached 22 per cent in 1992, compared with 7 or 8 per cent two years earlier. That support had benefited 54 countries affected by various crises or disasters.

73. UNICEF welcomed the advocacy and coordination function of the Department and the decision that it should not become operational. It was right that primary responsibility for a specific emergency or elements of an emergency should be entrusted to one of the operational organizations. The experience of UNICEF could confirm the effectiveness of such an arrangement, which should of course operate under the overall coordination of the Department. In that connection, it was vital to build on the strength of the various operational programmes or specialized agencies at the field level, whether WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO or FAO.

74. UNICEF believed that the new coordination machinery was functioning satisfactorily and had in fact improved in the past few months. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should remain a high-level meeting dealing with major policy issues; it might perhaps meet more often. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund had produced basically positive results and its operating rules had been usefully adapted.

75. Further improvements could be made in certain fields. First, information gathering and reporting systems should be developed so as to ensure speedier and more detailed reporting of action taken, people reached and needs that were still outstanding. Secondly, more effort needed to be made to involve the non-governmental organizations further, given the growing role they played at the local level: arrangements for such closer association should be worked out, including their obligations of accountability. Thirdly, the crucial role played by the coordinators for humanitarian assistance meant that a larger number must be built up so that persons who had the necessary experience, initiative and stature could be drawn upon. Fourthly, the delicate issue of the relationship between the coordinator and the political and military leaders of a country—so-called "vertical coordination"—was equally important: it was vital to act so that the humanitarian mandates of the operational agencies of the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations could be carried out with impartiality and universality. Lastly, the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development was an ever-present concern to UNICEF.

76. Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that humanitarian issues had come to occupy a central place in international relations and the maintenance of world peace and security. The increased attention devoted to that question by the Security Council and the General Assembly was to be welcomed. Dealing with humanitarian emergencies was a field in which the United Nations system had an indisputable comparative advantage. One of its priorities should be to act as the leader, given its capacity to marshal the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations under its banner and to ensure that the efforts made were complementary.

77. His delegation firmly supported the activities of DHA and endorsed the conclusions of the Secretary-General in his report (E/1993/90) on the need to strengthen the potential of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to the maximum. The task of the Economic and Social Council was to harmonize the work of inter-agency and intergovernmental coordinating mechanisms. To ensure better interaction between the Department's services in New York and Geneva, it was essential for Headquarters to be in charge, given the role of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the consideration of humanitarian issues. There must also be systematic cooperation between DHA, the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs.

78. Close cooperation among all parts of the United Nations system, based on the coordinating role of Headquarters, was vital in order to solve such pressing problems as the speedy recognition of crises and the assessment of assistance needs and existing possibilities. In addition, a more straightforward distribution of tasks would mean strengthening the Office of the Department at Geneva to ensure that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee functioned effectively, to collect information and to supervise directly the coordination of humanitarian programmes in the field where aid was dispensed. In that connection, his delegation supported the idea of entrusting the conduct of humanitarian operations in the field to a United Nations representative specially appointed for that task.

79. In the case of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, it might be useful to give additional powers to the heads of DHA, in particular the power to fund, on behalf of the Secretary-General, operations which did not come directly within the mandate of existing organizations (clearing of mines, transition from relief to rehabilitation, etc.).

80. The Russian Federation was particularly concerned about the safety of the staff taking part in humanitarian operations. In that connection, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs had proposed measures to protect the victims of armed conflict, calling for an increased role by the United Nations in strengthening international humanitarian law through the prohibition of attacks on humanitarian aid convoys, on the corridors through which they travelled and on the places where refugees were assembled. His delegation hoped that the Council would be able to recommend the adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session of a resolution clearly setting forth the obligation of all parties involved in an emergency situation to ensure the safety of United Nations humanitarian staff.

81. Russia agreed with Mr. Eliasson's proposal for the strengthening of the role of the regional commissions in coordinating humanitarian assistance. It supported the desire expressed recently by ESCAP to participate more actively in working out the social and economic parameters of United Nations peace-building activities and in the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance.

82. Given the obvious inadequacy of the funds mobilized for humanitarian operations, innovative approaches were essential, such as closer cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions, funding by private bodies and the transfer of part of the resources currently allocated to military and technical assistance.

83. Cooperation between Russia and the United Nations in respect of emergency humanitarian assistance was on the whole satisfactory, particularly as far as the humanitarian missions in Abkhazia and Tajikistan were concerned. The Russian Federation had taken steps to improve internal coordination in order to participate in United Nations humanitarian programmes: a special

interdepartmental commission had been set up to that end and it would no doubt be useful for similar mechanisms to be established in other countries.

84. Mrs. KUNADI (India) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian assistance (E/1993/90), based on the invaluable experience gained by DHA, contained some important observations. The complexity of each emergency situation made it difficult to impose a single model of institutional coordination: innovation and flexibility were important, as were the dedication and motivation of all those involved in humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, the impression had arisen that that was not always the case and, moreover, that the United Nations had proceeded selectively, concentrating on the more publicized emergencies, contrary to the basic principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Her delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's observation that the coordination aspects of the phase of rehabilitation and development had been inadequately dealt with. It also wished to recall two guiding principles of General Assembly resolution 46/182 regarding the need to renew the commitment to economic growth and to provide adequate resources to developing countries, and the need to ensure that humanitarian assistance was not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development. Unfortunately, the outlook for resources continued to be bleak and was a matter of great concern to all developing countries.

85. Various factors were of primary importance in respect of humanitarian assistance: speedy response in the early phase of an emergency, high quality field-level arrangements, the early assessment of needs and the protection and security of personnel involved in operations. When several United Nations bodies were involved, it was essential that information should be shared and collected in accordance with the needs of the departments involved. The arrangements under consideration, such as the activities of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the early mobilization of expertise were welcome innovations. Similarly, the discussions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on procedures for the quick disbursement of funds, recruitment of personnel and delegation of authority, were extremely important. On the financing of emergency coordination units, her delegation considered that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee were best placed to give advice. It would also like further details on the cases in which certain costs were being met from peace-keeping funds and on the conformity of the Security Council's recommendations with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations. The use of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for that purpose was also apparently outside its functions as defined in resolution 46/182. The Secretary-General stressed the urgent need to be able to call on the Fund's resources in areas where it could not at present be used. It would be useful to have an estimate of the amounts involved: it was, after all, a mechanism and not a fund in the traditional sense of the word, since the amounts drawn on it were reimbursed.

86. The serious resource problem affecting the ability of the United Nations system to deal with emergencies was a matter of grave concern to her delegation. Unfortunately, the solution lay in the political domain, and that explained why priority was given to the most publicized humanitarian emergencies. Hence, the need to call further on the services of the media and non-governmental organizations.

87. In most of the emergencies in which DHA was involved, it would appear that the transition to the phase of rehabilitation and development had still not occurred. In chapter II of his report, the Secretary-General made important recommendations on that point. The Indian delegation was generally in favour of them and was ready to discuss further the possible strengthening of the coordination machinery.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

19th meeting

Thursday, 1 July 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.19

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued*):

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (*continued*)

1. Mr. HJORT (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that his agency was in general agreement with the account of the achievements and challenges to date in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90) and with most of the proposals to improve the performance of the system's operations.

2. FAO had been deeply involved in the humanitarian activities coordinated by DHA and the Governments concerned. It had assessed food needs, prepared projects to provide relief to agriculturalists, helped prepare consolidated appeals to donors, searched for resources and implemented relief and agricultural rehabilitation projects, worked with WFP, provided information for progress reports, attended inter-agency working group meetings and participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

3. FAO regularly monitored crop conditions on a global basis and maintained a continuing presence in most disaster-prone areas in the developing world through its network of national offices. It was thus in an advantageous position to facilitate governmental coordination of relief, rehabilitation and development activities affecting food and agriculture. That presence also enabled FAO to perform the lead role within the United Nations system in those countries, in coordinating with the government matters within its mandate.

4. FAO shared the common perception of the manner in which the Department had promoted an effective, coherent and well-coordinated system-wide approach to emergencies. It was especially appreciative of the Department's policy of making the best use of the technical competence and experience of the agencies concerned, in accordance with their mandates, established in some cases by their own governing bodies.

5. FAO was confident of its ability to manage food needs assessment missions and provide the relevant information for consolidated appeals. It could also be counted upon to give early warning of impending food emergencies and provide reliable information for progress reports. It was not fully satisfied, however, with the process for assessing agricultural rehabilitation needs, and it shared the concern over the imbalance between the resources provided for food and those for non-food needs in response to consolidated appeals. It was in favour of a country-level structure based on the concept of lead agencies. It would support the establishment of emergency response teams only for countries where it was not represented.

6. In general, it supported the recommendations on the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, although it looked forward to further discussion of the proposal to strengthen the Inter-Agency Support Unit. It had used the Central Emergency Revolving Fund once, and would support extending its use to needs assessments, but warned against using the Fund for coordination functions. It supported the recommendation that the activities of bilateral partners and non-governmental organizations should be integrated more fully into appeal documents, and agreed that the capacity of DHA to help mobilize resources needed to be strengthened. The links between relief, rehabilitation and development also needed to be strengthened, but that was a task for Member States.

7. The work of its global information and early warning system placed FAO in the best possible position to decide where and when it needed to lead an assessment mission. Wherever it saw a serious food supply problem in prospect, it made arrangements with the Government to send an assessment mission. WFP was invited to join the mission to cover the aspect under its mandate. The mission's findings were issued as a special alert, containing the information later used by the Department in preparing the humanitarian programme and issuing a consolidated appeal to donors. The additional costs of working with the Department had largely been absorbed, although on occasion that had severely taxed the resources available to FAO. It might become necessary to include the costs of some assessments in the appeal to

donors. There was no need to modify the arrangements with respect to crop and food supply assessments.

8. FAO stood ready, upon government request, to take the lead in the assessment of agricultural rehabilitation needs, either as part of a broader mission led by the Department or on its own. Those assessments should provide the framework for that aspect of humanitarian assistance programmes in the same manner as in the case of food needs assessments, namely, as the basis for all those who would be involved in operations, including bilateral donors and the non-governmental organization community.

9. A serious problem existed, however, with respect to the non-food activities included in consolidated appeals. It had proved extremely difficult to obtain the resources needed to implement agricultural rehabilitation projects, or even to recover from donors the modest costs of mounting a mission to conduct a comprehensive rehabilitation needs assessment. Clearly, the resources that would be required to meet future needs and implement sustainable development programmes would be much higher if agricultural relief and rehabilitation needs were not adequately supported. The cost of meeting them was extremely small relative to the cost of providing food, and agricultural rehabilitation was a prerequisite for the cost-effective use of resources for the development of the sector.

10. It was important to use highly qualified technical experts in assessing agricultural rehabilitation needs and in implementing programmes and projects. The assessment teams should normally consist of national and international experts, the majority usually being nationals. In many respects, the task of assessing agricultural rehabilitation needs was more complex than the assessment of food needs and therefore more costly.

11. Central coordinating bodies should avoid duplicating capacities which were available elsewhere within the United Nations system. To be effective, action should be taken by the agencies which were most directly concerned and which had means and structures already in place at headquarters, at regional offices and in the countries.

12. In conclusion, he said that FAO highly appreciated the financial support provided by donors for agricultural projects and the valuable work being carried out by non-governmental organizations in the assessment, planning and execution of activities for humanitarian assistance. He assured the Council that FAO stood committed to helping countries, within its area of competence and available resources, to cope with the consequences of emergencies and disasters, while at the same time seeking to address the underlying causes. In the long run, prevention usually proved more sustainable and cost-effective than cure. Greater cooperation was required, not only among organizations of the United Nations system but also among donors and non-governmental organizations, in helping member countries.

13. Ms. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme) said that over its 30 years of existence, WFP had responded to a growing number of emergencies each year. In 1991, its emergency commitments had for the first time exceeded those for development, and in 1992 they had grown even more. In 1992, $1.2 billion had been spent on providing assistance to victims of natural and man-made disasters, reaching more than 27.5 million people, including about 14.4 million refugees and displaced persons. WFP worked closely with DHA on complex emergencies and also collaborated closely with UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, ICRC and non-governmental organizations, especially at country level. It believed that the creation of the Department constituted a milestone event for the United Nations and that its role in complex emergencies was absolutely essential.

14. In the view of WFP, the first purpose of DHA was to act as a strong coordinator and thus enhance the impact of the collaborative efforts of all the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies. It did so through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, through regular meetings at all levels and through the work of people seconded by agencies such as WFP to the Department in New York and Geneva. The Department carried out its role in the countries affected by complex emergencies. Secondly, the Department acted as an honest broker, helping to ensure that each operational agency functioned within its mandate and avoided duplication. It was aware of each agency's strengths and was able to tap those strengths effectively. Thirdly, the Department organized appeals. Before it was established, the appeals process had been at best confusing and duplicative. Currently, the Department organized coordinated appeals which worked well for all concerned—donors, agencies and the people and countries affected by the emergency situation. It also selected people for the key role of DHA Coordinator for countries coping with complex emergencies. By picking the best individual for each special circumstance, it maximized the contribution of the United Nations system. To date, the Department had named two coordinators from UNICEF, one from a non-governmental organization, three from UNDP and one from WFP.

15. The Department's role in New York, especially that of the Under-Secretary-General, working on a daily basis with the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General, was central to its success in responding efficiently to complex problems. It was also vital in order to deal with warring factions in complex emergencies in some countries. A major reason for the Department's success lay in the unique set of skills brought to its task by the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Eliasson. Lastly, through the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the Department was a source of quick funding for complex emergencies. WFP had borrowed twice from the Revolving Fund and believed that its establishment, format and operations were appropriate.

16. It was important for it to be recognized that the Department was not, and should not become, an operational agency. The Under-Secretary-General was committed to that position. Governments and agencies alike must always work to ensure that, while the Department coordinated, communicated and facilitated, it did not manage, operations.

17. There were some potential problems in regard to the Department. The tendency towards an operating role in some cases complicated rather than smoothed operations. The Department's mandate was complex emergencies, not other emergencies, and there should be a clear operational understanding of what constituted a complex emergency. The Department's appeals should be prepared after assessments had been made, when emergencies had been recognized as complex and after the contributions of all the relevant agencies had been received. The DHA Coordinators must remember that they were coordinators for the Department, not staff members of the agency from which they were drawn. Another potential problem was layering. In a country where a DHA coordinator was appointed, there was usually already a special representative of the Secretary-General. The WFP Director of Operations, where the expertise in food aid matters resided, usually reported to the UNDP Resident Representative. There could thus be four layers between the person responsible for food aid and the ultimate decision maker. It was common sense to make appropriate changes in each case in order to maximize efficiency.

18. The relief-rehabilitation-development continuum was critical to collective future success in helping people to rehabilitate their countries, their families and their communities, and to prevent future disasters. Development of the overall concept was critical for the future of the work and for its funding. When any humanitarian operation to save lives was started, work should begin on building rehabilitation and development proposals into the overall appeal. They would, in practice, come a little after the initial life-saving intervention, but not long after. In addition, attention should be paid to the introduction of emergency coping mechanisms when development projects were designed in disaster-prone countries. WFP had done that in Bangladesh.

19. In conclusion, she said that the Department's role was essential, that the right person had been chosen to lead it, and that the potential problems she had described were manageable. By working creatively to develop and expand the United Nations approach to building the continuum, the agencies of the system would be doing what was best to reach those in desperate need throughout the world, efficiently, effectively and compassionately.

20. Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that, in the volatile post-cold war world, the United Nations was being called upon to play increased roles in many areas, perhaps most crucially in the field of humanitarian assistance. The orders of magnitude, in terms of refugees and displaced persons, reported to the Council at the previous meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs were staggering. The central fact was that it was no longer possible to consider humanitarian assistance in isolation from other United Nations activities, such as peace-keeping and peace-making.

21. Humanitarian needs had escalated astronomically and the United Nations was facing enormous tasks in delivering humanitarian assistance in increasingly complex emergencies with relatively limited resources. In the circumstances, the key requirement was coordination of the various elements of the United Nations relief system, in order to develop effective mechanisms to respond to the complex emergencies that it was facing and would face in the future. Without coordination, it would fail. His delegation would therefore urge, as part of the current dialogue, that practical, agreed recommendations should be reached for enhancing coordination and thereby improving the delivery of emergency assistance to the millions of people throughout the world in desperate need of it.

22. Australia had been an ardent supporter of a strengthened role for the United Nations in the field of humanitarian affairs. It had therefore been greatly encouraged by the establishment of the Department. It was committed to seeing that the Department was able to fulfil its mandate and believed that the appointment of Mr. Eliasson as the Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department gave great hope for the future. In many respects, the Department was still grappling with its organizational development. Many complex issues were involved, such as the continuing need to refine the roles of the Department's policy makers in New York and the operational arm in Geneva. There was also a need to consolidate the links between emergency assistance and the subsequent phases of rehabilitation and development. Such consolidation was particularly important to ensure a continuum between initial humanitarian relief efforts and later development requirements.

23. The Under-Secretary-General had rightly identified as a priority concern the need to strengthen the humanitarian system's capacity for rapid response, a concern shared by Australia. At the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, his delegation had proposed that a group of senior officials from developed and developing countries and relevant United Nations agencies, supported by a strengthened DHA and a comprehensive database, should be established to conduct high-level reviews of the global famine situation and identify in advance emerging crisis situations. As originally envisaged, the group would be responsible for turning pledges into timely, life-saving deliveries of essential supplies and would seek to ensure that donor contributions were complementary, properly coordinated and well-targeted. The group would report regularly to the Security Council. Australia was pleased to see that the idea had been taken up in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1993/90).

24. The Under-Secretary-General had also emphasized the importance of dealing with the root causes and the

prevention of humanitarian emergency situations. Those were clearly areas in which the role of the Department must develop further.

25. The central theme of the Council's work at the current session should be coordination as a concept and as a fact. A number of areas needed to be examined closely as elements for strengthening coordination and thereby developing a system with the capacity to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies. His delegation had circulated in writing a number of recommendations for practical action for consideration by the Under-Secretary-General. It believed that a set of practical conclusions and recommendations could be agreed on at the current session which would provide the Department with effective guidance and enable it to fulfil its mandate as effectively as possible.

26. Mr. DE RIEDMATTEN (Observer for Switzerland) said that, since the preliminary discussions in 1991, in which it had taken an active part, Switzerland had followed closely the evolution of DHA. After participating in the Department's establishment, Switzerland had also contributed to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Despite the complexity of the new task and the difficulties inherent in it, the establishment of the new Department had raised great hopes as corresponding to a real need. He paid tribute to all the parties concerned for the efforts made since then to promote coherent and effective action by the United Nations system in the humanitarian field.

27. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90) was a useful basis for the Council's discussions. Nevertheless, some important questions remained open. They should lead the Council to reflect more deeply, based on experience to date. The past 12 months had shown how important it was for the Department to develop a real strategy for action together with an implementation plan. For real added value, the strategy should define the Department's functions, in New York and at Geneva, still more clearly, as well as the role and responsibilities of the Department and of the different partners in the system, while at the same time promoting optimum utilization of the new instruments made available by General Assembly resolution 46/182. The strategy should be drawn up in close consultation with the agencies and should be the subject of consensus with them as well as with the participating States. A strategy of that kind should be worked out without delay, not only in order to profit from the current thrust, but also to form the basis for the forthcoming discussions at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which would include consideration of the Department's budget.

28. The new structure of the Department, while reflecting the primary responsibility of the Emergency Relief Coordinator under the terms of resolution 46/182, must be flexible. In order to avoid duplication, its work must necessarily be carried out in close cooperation with the agencies.

29. There had been much discussion in recent months of the exact meaning of the term "complex emergency situation" but he believed that a pragmatic analysis of the various emergency situations, including natural disasters, would be more useful than a precise definition. The analysis should be conducted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee or its Working Group. In each case a specific and innovative response should be found with provision when necessary for the designation of a key operational agency. The central and decisive role of inter-agency teams deserved attention. The Department should help to ensure efficient operational coordination by drawing on agencies within the system and other aid organizations present on the ground. On the basis of resolution 46/182 and with the agreement of all concerned, a field coordinator could be chosen from the inter-agency team. In collaboration with their headquarters, the members of the team could draw up an operational budget for the first few months until a consolidated appeal could be drafted. The team would manage the funds advanced to the agencies.

30. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund should, he believed, be used solely to meet immediate needs. Disbursements should be refunded later from contributions received in response to the consolidated appeal. In view of the financial stringencies of donor States, his delegation believed no increase in the Fund's capital could be considered until it was proved that the mechanism was functionally effective and used and new procedures had been tested.

31. He hoped constructive solutions would soon be found to permit the effective collaboration of all the partners in emergency operations. The Department had been set up in the interests of millions of people who needed assistance and he believed a solution could be readily devised if the members of the United Nations system took a common view of the problem and means of dealing with it.

32. In conclusion he stressed the importance his delegation attached to the role the Coordinator could play in humanitarian diplomacy, which it considered a vital factor in the situation.

33. Mr. WANG Xinggen (China) said that his delegation welcomed the establishment of DHA, the setting up of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and the launching of consolidated appeals in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182. It expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the Department and the Coordinator.

34. Inadequate funding had been a constant problem and, as the Coordinator had pointed out, additional needs were substantial as a result of the huge losses in lives and property caused by recent disasters. His delegation appealed to countries with a capacity to do so to increase their assistance, particularly non-food assistance. In his report (E/1993/90) the Secretary-General pointed out

that, since the establishment of the $50 million Revolving Fund, $32 million had been advanced to five major agencies for their direct use in emergency relief, of which $19 million had been reimbursed. The need for the Fund was obvious, but owing to the constraints of financial rules and regulations, it had not been possible to make full use of the $50 million available. Because of the shortage of resources, the Fund could not properly meet needs in the initial phase of many disasters. His delegation, therefore, favoured an increase in the total size of the Fund on the basis of voluntary contributions, and the adoption of more flexible rules to ensure its full and rational utilization.

35. He viewed with concern proposals that the Fund should be used for other activities, and be authorized to make advances to organizations outside the United Nations system.

36. In view of the close link between emergency assistance and the rehabilitation and long-term development of disaster-stricken areas, his delegation was in favour of consideration being given to integration of the two types of assistance.

37. As the report showed, the damage caused by natural disasters was far more serious than that caused by man-made disasters. It was regrettable that natural disasters had not aroused the same concern or attracted the same amount of assistance. His delegation believed that prompt relief should be delivered regardless of the nature of the disaster, and on the basis of humanitarianism, neutrality and impartiality, without reference to differences in political systems or ideology. It was also essential that, in providing emergency assistance, the prior consent of the recipient countries should be obtained, and the coordination of external assistance left to the Governments concerned.

38. Mrs. OGATA (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that UNHCR was painfully aware of the need for improved coordination of humanitarian assistance. The demands were so numerous and the capacity of UNHCR so stretched that it was a constant priority for UNHCR to reinforce links with existing partners and search for new ones. It had already reinforced cooperation, in particular with UNICEF and WFP. In the former Yugoslavia, where UNHCR as lead agency was working in close cooperation with UNICEF, WFP and WHO, as well as ICRC, the International Organization for Migration and numerous non-governmental organizations, protection and relief assistance were being provided to some 3.8 million refugees, displaced and other affected persons.

39. One important unresolved question concerned the meaning of the term "complex humanitarian emergency". UNHCR, like many of its sister agencies, believed it would be useful to distinguish situations where the special involvement of the Department was essential from those where existing capacities and expertise could be brought to bear satisfactorily. In her view, an emergency was complex when its causes were mixed and its magnitude made it difficult for any single agency to handle the emergency alone. Somalia was a clear example, where there was an obvious need to mobilize a range of actors and coordinate their inputs. She welcomed the establishment of the Department and the appointment of Mr. Eliasson as Emergency Relief Coordinator.

40. In a situation like Somalia, UNHCR looked to the Secretary-General and DHA to assign primary responsibility to the most appropriate agency, supported by agencies which the Department should mobilize to provide secondary support. The Department should facilitate cooperation while the agencies continued to operate on the ground.

41. There continued to be classical refugee emergencies that were not "complex", where UNHCR was in a position to assume its mandatory responsibility to provide protection and assistance. When, for example, some 200,000 Togolese refugees had entered Benin and Ghana in early 1993, UNHCR had sought the support of the relevant United Nations agencies, primarily WFP and UNICEF, and of a number of non-governmental organizations. It had despatched emergency response teams and drawn upon its Emergency Fund—which had been increased in December 1992 to $25 million—allocating a total of $3 million before mounting a $9.9 million programme for which funding was being urgently sought.

42. The capacity to deliver was as necessary a prerequisite for improved system-wide coordination to address complex humanitarian emergencies as for classical refugee emergencies. UNHCR had therefore sought to strengthen its emergency response capacity. It had set up five regional Emergency Response Teams and concluded agreements to draw upon the stockpiles and standby capacity of government and non-governmental bodies specialized in emergencies. Those measures had been taken with the full support of the UNHCR Executive Committee.

43. In 1992, UNHCR had mounted emergency programmes for over 3 million people in the former Yugoslavia, some 420,000 refugees in Kenya, some 260,000 refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh, and an influx of asylum seekers from Bhutan into Nepal. Emergency Response Teams had also been sent to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan early in December 1992.

44. In Mrs. Ogata's view, there was no need for new mechanisms, but a clear need to strengthen the combined use of existing ones. The international community should draw upon the unique mandates and specific expertise of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to enhance comparative advantages. Only then would it be in a position to decide whether new mechanisms were required, such as United Nations rapid intervention teams. That position had been taken in discussions in ACC in April 1993.

45. She did not believe that enhanced operationality was necessary for the effective discharge of the Department's coordination and mobilization functions. General Assembly resolution 46/182 was not intended to create an additional layer of bureaucracy or a new operational agency. The distinction between facilitating cooperation and undertaking operational activities must be maintained. The ultimate goal of enhanced cooperation was to ensure that the "whole", constituted by the individual efforts of United Nations agencies, bilateral cooperation and non-governmental organizations, was greater than the sum of its parts. Innovative models of cooperation between Governments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations could be found in humanitarian operations in Cambodia, Iraq and the former Yugoslavia, when the "lead agency" concept for coordination had proved its value. At its April meeting, ACC had called for a further examination of the concept and its application under the overall coordination of the Department. The Department should explore the most advantageous division of primary and secondary responsibilities in such cases.

46. Humanitarian action was having to focus increasingly on internal rather than inter-State problems in the context of both returning refugees and internally displaced persons. In Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Mozambique, the complex relationship between peace-making, peace-keeping and humanitarian action had come to the fore, and adequate coordination of those efforts was critical. Advocating greater sensitivity to the linkage between those efforts and ensuring that due account was taken of potential implications for humanitarian relief operations was, she believed, another important role of DHA. There was a need to establish clear criteria for humanitarian activities in the context of political and peace-keeping operations. The Department should foster a dialogue to develop the applicable doctrine as well as a pragmatic examination of the humanitarian "rules of engagement" for such operations.

47. She saw the Department as playing a much more active role in sensitizing political organs of the United Nations to the problems faced by humanitarian relief efforts on the ground, and seeking agreement on ways of solving them. One key area related to sanctions, where obstacles to humanitarian action must be avoided as far as possible. De-mining operations were another area where the onus of responsibility remained unclear. A third was security for humanitarian relief operations and access. The Department could also help to identify gaps in the response of the United Nations system, especially to ensure that the needs of such categories as internally displaced persons and minority groups were adequately met. It was part of the strategy of UNHCR to prevent refugee problems before people were forced to cross borders, and it had assumed a more active role, at the request of the Secretary-General and the Governments concerned, on behalf of internally displaced persons in such countries as Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslavia. UNHCR had also launched an innovative operation in Somalia from across the border in Kenya to avoid people being forced to leave their country solely for lack of international assistance. When refugees returned to areas where they were internally displaced persons, UNHCR had sought to assist both those returning and the local people in an effort to stabilize communities and promote durable solutions. It was, however, obvious, that it had neither the mandate nor the capacity to resume responsibility for the world's entire population of displaced persons. It must be given discretion to decide whether it assumed a primary or secondary role with respect to the internally displaced. Cooperation was also essential in needs assessment and the preparation and follow-up of consolidated appeals. UNHCR welcomed joint assessment missions and preparations of consolidated appeals under the auspices of the Department. She was, however, concerned at the multiplication of appeals. There was need for more rigorous setting of priorities and a more critical assessment of needs and budgets as well as the development of a consolidated resource strategy. The time had come for a major dialogue on the hard choices that would have to be made, in which the Department would have a central role to play. Ever-increasing challenges, limited resources and the overstretched capacity of UNHCR had made the role of non-governmental organizations more important than ever, and Mrs. Ogata was determined to reinforce UNHCR partnership with them through a series of joint workshops which would culminate in an NGO/UNHCR Conference to be held in Oslo in December 1993.

48. Operations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Mozambique had made it evident that, for voluntary repatriation to be a lasting solution, it must be accompanied by efforts to create a more stable environment. Proper conditions for reintegration must be created that benefited not only those returning but also the local population, and there was a need for associated comprehensive development programmes, as was recognized in the Secretary-General's report "Agenda for Peace".

49. While current challenges sometimes appeared insurmountable, the past was as rich in lessons as the future was full of opportunities. Everyone recognized the need for a substantial transformation in the way the United Nations approached those myriad challenges. UNHCR continued to stand ready to contribute to enhance the system's response to complex humanitarian operations and pledged its support for the Secretary-General and DHA in that crucial endeavour.

50. Mr. POWER (Assistant Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) observed that, since the end of the cold war, national disasters, especially armed conflicts, had become increasingly complex for those involved in prevention, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Each situation made intermingled military and civilian demands on the United Nations system, including such activities as human rights verification missions, election supervision, and the whole gamut of humanitarian assistance efforts.

UNESCO was involved in each stage of such operations—with the exception of humanitarian relief—and considered the line between emergency relief and rehabilitation to be a fine one. It would welcome guidance as to the earliest appropriate moment when it could intervene with effect in humanitarian assistance efforts.

51. Coordination of the efforts of agencies was clearly necessary if the collective purpose was to be achieved and chaos and aggravated suffering avoided. To that end vision, authority and commitment to partnership were indispensable, as was leadership, and UNESCO fully supported the assumption of those functions by DHA.

52. Three major obstacles needed to be overcome: the clarification of agency goals and mandates; coordination of the nature and timing of inputs; and fund-raising. Although UNESCO had the longest standing mandate in education, including refugee education, it appreciated the impressive contributions made by other agencies in that field, particularly UNICEF, UNHCR and UNRWA, as well as non-governmental organizations.

53. DHA needed to pay due regard to those factors and coordinate collective efforts to ensure fund-raising for between-pledge bridging and for disaster prevention and preparedness, which could not be dealt with by individual agencies. UNESCO fully supported the terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

54. In addition to its work on such matters as seismic monitoring, the development of building codes for earthquake and cyclone-resistant schools, the production and distribution of guides on life-saving measures, and the introduction of legal and physical measures to protect cultural sites, UNESCO regarded peace-building for prevention as its greatest challenge. That was a highly complex and very long-term undertaking since poverty, the population explosion, and cultural and economic differences lay at the centre of many conflicts and pointed to the need to expand knowledge of the cultural identities and lifestyles of other people. UNESCO had for many years been active in promoting the incorporation of such subjects into the curricula of formal education. As to rehabilitation, UNESCO would, by use of its growing database, be increasingly able to determine at what point abridged education programmes could be introduced to those deprived of the human right to education, which strategies lent themselves to the provision of instruction, relief from post-trauma stress disorders, and to the closer involvement of mothers in the education and welfare of their children. As spelt out in its "SHARE" policy, the support of UNESCO for rehabilitation sought to improve the quality of education, of materials production, of training for teachers in unfamiliar skills, of the teaching of reading, which, being entirely community based, was of special relevance to refugees and victims of armed conflict. The social and human sciences would also continue to play a vital role in any UNESCO programme of post-relief assistance.

55. In regard to reconstruction, which was the last stage of humanitarian assistance prior to peace-building and development efforts, UNESCO sought to rebuild education systems and enhance basic institutional capacity building.

56. Disaster and conflict prevention was clearly the least expensive option but, being largely invisible, it failed to attract funds, and budgetary provisions were rarely made for peace-building. He joined others in emphasizing the importance of rapid responses and recognizing the need for a radical overhaul of the delivery system, in which DHA would also have a role to play. The speed and efficiency of operations would increase proportionately with the promptness and accuracy with which information was communicated to all parties. UNESCO was deeply committed to achieving that goal.

57. Ms. DOWSETT (Observer for New Zealand) said that New Zealand strongly supported the establishment under General Assembly resolution 46/182 of new mechanisms to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations system. Since the mechanisms inevitably touched on complex managerial, operational and political issues, her delegation looked forward to a more comprehensive review of the current arrangements' effectiveness at the Assembly's forty-eighth session, and would wish to examine carefully the 1994/1995 budget proposals for DHA. For the coordination segment of the current session, however, the goal was to agree, as outlined in Council decision 1993/205, a series of specific recommendations on coordination, bearing in mind four key elements.

58. The first element related to agency response to the Department's coordinating role. As noted in Assembly resolution 46/182, the mandates of a number of agencies enabled them to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies and their aftermath. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the central coordination forum for collaboration, was rightly described as a common resource of the system. Its effectiveness, however, depended largely on the extent to which its members assumed ownership and saw it as a body to facilitate their activities. An enhanced role for the Committee would be a positive development. The practice of designating lead agencies could also be useful.

59. With regard to the second element, field operations, her delegation supported proposals to involve activists in the field, particularly Governments and non-governmental organizations, more closely in the preparation of consolidated appeals and to take their activities more fully into account at the implementation stage. The Secretary-General had rightly concluded in his report (E/1993/90) that the accountability of individuals and organizations in the field depended on a clear definition of organizational arrangements and responsibilities. Her delegation would be interested to learn from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs whether that objective had been achieved and, if not, what the impediments were.

60. Financial instruments constituted the third element. The consolidated appeals mechanism and the Central Emergency Revolving Fund were the two main instruments at the Department's disposal. A consolidated appeal, in order to obtain the best response, must be presented in one thorough, comprehensive document. Revised and repeated appeals led to confusion and donor lethargy. Bilateral contributions and non-governmental organizations' activities must be taken fully into account and realistic funding targets presented. Recommendations about possible future adjustments to the Fund mentioned in section E of the Secretary-General's report, and the difficulties referred to in sections C and E relating to the funding of coordinating functions, would be best addressed at the General Assembly's forthcoming session, when the Fund's operation would be reviewed in greater detail. Her delegation recognized that the financial rules applicable to the Fund might have proved restrictive and that a review might be warranted. It was not convinced that the Fund needed to be increased, since total disbursements over a 16-month period had amounted to only $32 million, of which only $19 million had been reimbursed; it would like to know whether DHA had an investment policy for the principal sum of $50 million and what use had been made of the interest earned.

61. With regard to the fourth element, relief and the development continuum, action on the latter was essential if relief efforts were to have a lasting effect. Development agencies and donors must give appropriate attention to capacity-building and addressing the root causes of emergencies. New Zealand was aware, of course, of the work done on disaster relief coordination, including early warning, preparedness and mitigation programmes, which it commended.

62. The New Zealand delegation looked forward to a fruitful examination, at the current session, of the coordination aspects of the Department's role, and the opportunity of considering its functions more generally at the forthcoming Assembly session.

63. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that humanitarian assistance called for close coordination in the United Nations system. He was pleased to note, therefore, that humanitarian assistance, in all its stages, was one of the topics for the high-level segment of the current session. The establishment of DHA under General Assembly resolution 46/182 answered the need to enhance response capacity to natural and man-made disasters. The need to provide humanitarian assistance in times of crisis went without saying, and the United Nations system had to be in a position to respond accordingly with all due urgency. For that purpose, the Assembly, the Council and the relevant programmes and funds must have the requisite flexibility and motivation. But humanitarian affairs must not be confused with situations involving the use of force. The Security Council must not be viewed as the sole body able to wield means for prompt action. The international community's collective response to any disaster, natural or man-made, must be channelled and monitored in the appropriate forums, according to strict humanitarian parameters and in proportion to the needs of the particular situation. Humanitarian assistance must not be politicized and must be clearly distinguished from action in the cause of international peace and security.

64. The strength of DHA lay in the ability to coordinate the system's funds and agencies through a highly qualified team of specialists—an approach clearly successful in country operations. In the view of the Group of 77 and China, General Assembly resolution 46/182 should be expanded in order to clarify the Department's coordinating role and make its terms of reference more flexible. Coordination in an emergency must be the task of the resident representative of the agency whose mandate was most relevant to the needs and had a comparative advantage. The Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, should make the choice and outline the inter-agency coordination procedure, without involvement in the operational phase. Although the alignment of criteria at the level of agency heads was important, it was vital to strengthen coordination in the field, not only among agencies of the system but also with non-governmental organizations and donor Governments. There was a disquieting tendency to individual isolated action, aimed at obtaining the international community's recognition or, in the case of United Nations agencies, attracting further contributions from donors, with a consequent waste of scarce resources. The Department should coordinate the allocation of resources to humanitarian assistance, thus helping recipient countries and donors alike and enhancing transparency.

65. With regard to the continuum to rehabilitation and development, the Coordinator must play a fundamental role, in view of a tendency to provide disaster-stricken countries with massive assistance but abandon them once the immediate crisis had ended. The effects of disasters were particularly acute in developing countries, which faced a critical situation not only in crisis response but in subsequent recovery efforts. The Department must ensure that the other agencies acted to promote recovery in the economy and in the affected communities, working with Governments and non-governmental organizations to set up bodies for that purpose. Such action was essential if the recurrence of disaster was to be avoided.

66. In that regard, the United States delegation had made a welcome proposal for an annual coordination meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

67. The Group of 77 reiterated the importance they attached to the current topic, and reaffirmed their collaboration and commitment in order to bring the current deliberations to practical conclusions.

68. Mr. HATANO (Japan) said that DHA faced difficulties stemming from high expectations on the one hand

and scepticism on the other. Despite its clear mandate pursuant to Assembly resolution 46/182, its organization and structure were not yet strong enough for it to discharge its coordination responsibilities as originally envisaged. His Government was gratified, therefore, to learn that the Department was striving for an adequate 1994/1995 budget proposal, which should be given the highest priority, for its programme activities. He applauded the Department's efforts, and hoped that it would implement, as a matter of priority, the points set out in the "strategy paper" presented. Coordination would be difficult without a secure power base and good working relations with the parties concerned, whose voluntary cooperation was essential; its role should provide "added value", in at least five areas, to the current humanitarian activities.

69. First, the Department should clearly identify issues and define what constituted a "complex emergency", and then redefine its role and objectives within the United Nations system. Secondly, humanitarian diplomacy was a role for which the Emergency Relief Coordinator was uniquely qualified, given his close working relationship with the Secretary-General, when there were problems regarding access or the safety of aid workers, or in conditions of hostilities. Mr. Hatano applauded the dedicated efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in that regard.

70. Thirdly, in view of the need to work with the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs with a view to a concerted approach to complex emergencies, DHA might articulate the humanitarian aspects on behalf of the other operational agencies involved, in order to ensure the establishment of a single set of guiding principles and, as a result, coordination among peace-keeping, political and humanitarian activities. And the coordination mechanisms in the field should be flexible, especially with regard to local coordination.

71. Fourthly, with regard to consolidated appeals, the Department should exercise its mandate swiftly. It had occasionally expressed concern about donor countries' poor responses; but one reason lay in badly formulated appeals. It should also pay more attention to the importance of following up its appeals, for example, by monitoring the use of resources and providing timely reports to Member States.

72. Fifthly, the Department should play the pivotal role in the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development, paying particular attention to the various experts with regard to modalities for progressive development. His delegation was pleased that the international agencies involved in development assistance were participating in the continuum at an earlier stage than hitherto.

73. Since the ability to cope with natural disasters was highly important, his Government continued to expect more of the Department, the successor of UNDRO, in natural disaster preparedness and mitigation. It supported the Department's plan to use the Inter-Agency Standing Committee not simply as a forum for exchange of information but for coordination in policy issues such as internally displaced people, protection of aid workers and the continuum. All donors hoped that the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, used increasingly to finance the starting-up of emergency assistance programmes, would be managed soundly. The General Assembly should review the Fund's management at its next session.

74. The Japanese Government reaffirmed its commitment to the letter and spirit of Assembly resolutions 46/182 and 47/168, and would spare no effort in cooperating with DHA.

75. The PRESIDENT invited delegations to put brief questions to the heads of the agencies.

76. Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said he would like to know how the heads of the relevant agencies evaluated the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The views of ICRC and relevant non-governmental organizations would be interesting. He noted that, in the view of UNICEF, it was not necessary for the Committee to meet more frequently, whereas the European Community's member States, and a number of other countries, felt that it was an important instrument for coordination. He also asked what possibilities there were for enhancing the Committee's work.

77. Mr. DEMIN (Belarus) said his delegation supported the proposals in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90) for strengthening mechanisms for coordinating humanitarian assistance, particularly with regard to the role of DHA, which, in his delegation's view, should be strengthened, and the review of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. It also supported the use of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary, the Inter-Agency Working Group. With regard to enhanced efforts in the field, his delegation wondered whether it was planned to expand the activities of the UNDP Resident Coordinator's office in Minsk. That office coordinated programmes such as the post-Chernobyl work, which related to a disaster situation. Such activities were essential in order to help the country overcome the current economic crisis and promote sustainable development. He also wondered how coordination with the interagency task force relating to Chernobyl was envisaged. He hoped that some improvement could be effected in that regard, since the current situation was unsatisfactory. Lastly, his delegation supported the Russian Federation's proposal concerning the adoption, by the Council, of a resolution relating to peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance.

78. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt) thought, in view of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs' statement that the Department was interested in maintaining close relations in the operations field, that it might be advisable for the Department to be based in Geneva rather than New York.

79. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) wondered whether the heads of the agencies could make any specific proposals with a view to improving the operation of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund from the standpoint of their agency.

80. Mr. SETH (India) said it was clear that coordination problems were an in-house matter. In his opinion, recommendations from Governments concerning coordination would serve no purpose, since most of the problems could be dealt with more effectively within the context of inter-agency discussions.

81. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) said, with regard to the question whether the Department should be transferred to Geneva, that humanitarian issues had become so important that they had to be dealt with both at Geneva and in New York with slightly different emphasis in the two locations. It was clear that in New York those issues related directly to peace-keeping and political matters, Security Council resolutions and the presence of the humanitarian community. Therefore, the presence of the Department in New York was absolutely necessary. On the other hand, it was obvious that some of the major activities in the humanitarian sphere occurred at Geneva and in Europe. In that connection, he referred to the existence there of a substantial donor community and the Red Cross. Furthermore, the Swiss Government played a crucial role and Geneva had its own symbolism.

82. It was clear that the United Nations was being requested to play a role in ever more complex situations. In the past, it had not been involved in civil war situations. With the end of the cold war, however, the Organization had acquired a more active comprehensive role.

83. He approved the idea that the question of persons in conflict situations should be regarded as a Security Council concern but, as a representative of the humanitarian community, he was also eager to adhere to the principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 46/182 relating to sovereignty, the consent of parties, neutrality, impartiality and the humanitarianism of the Department's operations. He hoped that, even in operations that became peace-enforcement operations, it would be possible to maintain the neutrality and impartiality of the Department's actions. He hoped that the military presence could also have some humanitarian components and help to repair bridges and roads and care for persons injured by mines.

84. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that UNDP thought that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee worked well. He noted that the Committee was changing a few aspects of its operation and becoming more specific with regard to recommendations addressed by agencies to each other.

85. With regard to the question raised by the representative of Belarus, he said that although UNDP planned to expand its ordinary operations in Minsk over the years, the emergency situation really came within the mandate of DHA.

86. On the question of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the attitude of UNDP was that it probably should be replenished and that the rules should be more flexible.

87. Ms. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme) said that her organization believed the Inter-Agency Standing Committee worked well and met only when there were important issues to discuss. It also had an Inter-Agency Working Group composed of some agencies, the executive heads of which attended the Standing Committee. The Working Group met quite often.

88. The Revolving Fund operated not only as had been intended but in a way that was helpful to her organization. On the issue of whether the Department should be located in New York or at Geneva, one of the Department's strong points was that the Under-Secretary-General was in New York and had quick access to the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the persons involved in peace-keeping operations based in New York.

89. Mr. JOLLY (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) concurred with the points made by the two previous speakers concerning the operation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. He thought that with respect to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, certain requirements might be relaxed somewhat.

90. With regard to the comment of the observer for Egypt, he believed strongly that the human dimension had to be integrated into peace-keeping. One specific suggestion might be to promote joint training between humanitarian workers and some of the military staff involved in leadership roles.

91. Mr. HJORT (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said, with regard to the question of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, that one of its advantages was that it could be as broad as any particular problem and was not restricted to programmes and funds. Its membership included special agencies and non-governmental organizations. He would suggest that consideration should be given to a rotating system whereby donors themselves could be represented, particularly those involved in bilateral programmes.

92. Mr. GALLI (World Health Organization) said that his organization agreed that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee played an important role.

93. Mr. STAFFORD (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thought that the Inter-

Agency Standing Committee's meetings were useful and discussed major policy issues. The tendency not to hold too many meetings was also important.

94. With regard to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, his organization had used it on several occasions and had found it to be responsive to its requests.

95. Mr. KASTBERG (Observer for Sweden) said that while it seemed that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee worked well, there were still a number of issues that it had not considered. He felt that the effective functioning of the Committee was a shared responsibility of all its members and would like to know what the agencies intended to do to strengthen the Committee and deal with all the outstanding issues.

96. Mr. HAMBURGER (Observer for the Netherlands) said that complex emergencies were within the mandate of DHA. However, the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90) and General Assembly resolution 46/182 were vague in that respect and also referred to complex emergencies, major emergencies and natural disasters. He would welcome clarification and would like to know what additional measures should be taken to improve the integration between humanitarian aspects and the peace-keeping and peace-making aspects.

97. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said he would welcome clarification of the expression "value added" in connection with DHA. He would also like to know whether it was conceivable that the Department could define priorities in the implementation of consolidated appeals.

98. Lastly, he asked whether it would be possible to make available an organization that indicated the distribution of tasks between the Department's offices in Geneva and New York.

99. Mr. SCHONLEITER (Germany) said that according to the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90), $30 million had been disbursed to United Nations organizations and that $19 million had been reimbursed. He would like to know what had happened to the remaining amount.

100. Referring to the frequent references in the Secretary-General's report to disaster prevention, he would like to know whether DHA had planned, initiated and implemented any specific actions in that regard.

101. Mr. BEARPARK (United Kingdom) asked whether in cases where it was the lead agency, UNHCR felt that ultimate responsibility for implementation of the mission should be borne by it or by DHA. Given the importance the Department attached to coordination, he would like to know how it thought that such coordination should be funded and whether any specific plans for improvement were under consideration.

102. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Coordinator) said that DHA had a responsibility to define priorities. It would endeavour to provide the organization table requested by the representative of France as soon as possible.

103. With regard to the disbursement of $30 million, it had been decided to give UNHCR and the World Food Programme the money for the appeal concerning Georgia and Tajikistan. The response to the appeal had been very weak.

104. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that his organization devoted about 30 per cent of its cost of operations to coordination activities. In a complex emergency situation, emergency support was funded largely by UNDP but also by special donations.

105. Mr. STAFFORD (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that his organization carried out a great number of evaluations in order to determine what could be learnt from its operations.

106. The United Nations was being requested to undertake an increasing number of both humanitarian and political activities. UNHCR hoped that before ordering sanctions, the Security Council would consider the humanitarian aspects involved. Where UNHCR tried to find partners and was unable to do so, it would welcome assistance from DHA. Lastly, in view of the presence of agencies in New York and in Geneva, he hoped that consideration would be given to installing modern conference-calling equipment, which would make it possible to hold meetings more frequently.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

20th meeting

Friday, 2 July 1993, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.20

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued*):

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (*continued*)

1. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that in his opinion the deliberations of the Council would have been more productive if the report of the Secretary-General (E/1993/90) had given a more detailed diagnosis of the problems encountered in coordinating humanitarian activities since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182, and if the specialized agencies, with their direct experience in the field, had made their difficulties known.

2. Perhaps the most important provision of resolution 46/182 was the one stating that humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and those principles called for some brief comments.

3. It was never superfluous to recall that United Nations activities in the territory of a Member State, whether in the form of humanitarian assistance or development cooperation, were undertaken only with the consent and under the coordinating responsibility of the recipient Government. The events of recent months had emphasized the importance of preserving the strict neutrality and non-political character of humanitarian activities. It was, therefore, with reservation that his delegation had taken note of some proposals that might involve departing from those imperatives. It had been suggested that the political, security and humanitarian aspects of United Nations activities should be more closely integrated. While it was true that, in many cases, humanitarian efforts were undertaken in situations where the United Nations was also engaged in peace-keeping, the "vertical coordination" of those two aspects would jeopardize the independence and neutrality of humanitarian assistance.

4. From a more general viewpoint, he was not convinced of the advisability of excessive proximity between those dealing with social and humanitarian issues, as the Council did, and those dealing with political and security matters, in particular the Security Council. As specified by the Charter, the Economic and Social Council was basically linked to the General Assembly, and it was within that context that its activities might have some bearing on the political and security issues that formed an important part of the General Assembly's agenda. It was in that spirit that his delegation had taken note of the proposal to hold joint meetings of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, but it wondered whether that type of proposal should not, logically and chronologically, be discussed only after a more balanced relationship had been established between the Security Council and the General Assembly itself, a task which still lay ahead.

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs had suggested, that, in order to improve the efficiency of the assistance provided, emergency response teams should be deployed in cases where the United Nations lacked response capacity in the field. It would be useful if the Council were given further clarification on the implications of the proposal. The field capacity of the United Nations was geared to the regular programmes of cooperation and not to potential emergencies. The emergency response teams might, therefore, become the rule rather than an exception. What would the relationship then be between them and the field representatives of agencies? Would not a rapid deployment of additional personnel under existing arrangements be preferable? Would not the enhancement of information management systems be more efficient in the long run? Was there not a risk that DHA would increasingly undertake operational functions?

6. The comparative advantage enjoyed by the Department in coordinating and providing leadership for emergency action might be lost if it became involved in the implementation of certain phases of humanitarian assistance programmes, such as utilizing resources from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to finance special missions, needs assessment, preparations for appeals and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms—apart from the fact that such involvement would not be consistent with the revolving nature of the Fund. Perhaps it

would be more appropriate to leave deliberations on such financial arrangements to the comprehensive review to be undertaken at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the basis of more detailed reports.

7. His delegation attached great importance to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and fully supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that greater use should be made of it. It also believed that improvements in emergency information management were crucial to the effectiveness of the system. It noted the progress so far achieved and looked forward to the presentation of a more comprehensive report at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

8. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt) said that, in spite of the large number of ethnic and political conflicts, natural disasters most often provided the occasion for the international community to show solidarity. The Secretary-General reported that 162,000 people had died in 1991 in the course of 434 serious natural disasters, which had caused $44 billion worth of damage.

9. The United Nations system had adopted constructive measures to strengthen coordination and cooperation among its constituent bodies and institutions, in accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly expressed in resolution 46/182.

10. His delegation fully supported the view of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that the aim should be to establish a closer connection with events on the ground and to ensure coordination of the activities of the bodies concretely engaged in delivering aid. For that reason DHA should have its headquarters in Geneva, as close as possible to the agencies and bodies responding to emergencies. The arguments for establishing the Department in New York were not convincing: the Geneva location would not prevent the Department from maintaining contact with UNDP and the Security Council in cases where its activities were integrated into peace-keeping operations.

11. The Department had been entrusted with the difficult task of increasing the volume of assistance and rationalizing the use of resources by avoiding overlapping and by assessing real needs. If it succeeded in that task, resources would be better utilized and the United Nations response would be correspondingly more effective in emergency situations.

12. The volume of aid available should in any case be increased. The Egyptian Government appealed to donor countries to increase their contributions to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to enable it to respond immediately to emergency situations.

13. Care should also be taken to ensure that humanitarian assistance programmes were recognized and supported during the process of adapting institutional machinery to sustainable development. Local organizations should be helped by giving them the resources needed to perform their tasks. In the preventive diplomacy framework, more attention should be paid to the potential of developing countries by making available to them the necessary resources and by improving information transfers.

14. His delegation considered that the integration of the humanitarian aspect into peace-making and peace-keeping activities should be limited to situations involving conflicts that fell within the jurisdiction of the Security Council, which were few in number compared with natural disasters. The latter had nothing to do with peace-making and were not within the competence of the Security Council, as his delegation had pointed out when resolution 46/182 had been adopted.

15. Humanitarian assistance must have the sole aim of helping the populations concerned and coordinating the recovery of the affected countries. On all those planes, it must remain neutral and non-political, and it must concentrate on the three major aspects identified for social development: the redistribution of resources, social integration, and protection of vulnerable sections of the population.

16. Mr. LANG (Austria) recalled that, already before 1991, the United Nations had developed a mechanism for responding to natural disasters, which must not be forgotten and indeed should continue to be appropriately used by the international community. Particularly important in the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development were aspects pertaining to disaster prevention and mitigation.

17. It was clear that in the area of complex emergencies leadership for coordination required more attention. The Emergency Relief Coordinator and DHA must, therefore, be given the means intended by resolution 46/182 both within the Secretariat and the rest of the United Nations system. Their role had not yet been sufficiently recognized.

18. The fact that demands upon the international community for emergency assistance had reached unprecedented levels, and that capacities for meeting them were overstretched and available resources limited, made it necessary to set priorities. It also called for a coordinated effort to strengthen links between operational agencies and existing partners and to seek new ones. What was needed was a lean Secretariat, which must maximize the use of experienced staff both within and from outside the United Nations system.

19. His delegation had been encouraged by the results achieved by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its Working Group, and it had noted the potential for increased efficiency, as well as the open questions regarding the "lead agency" concept and additional layers of decision-making.

20. As to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, his delegation could support changes to its rules to allow access to intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, provided that their activities did

not fall within the responsibility of United Nations operational agencies, and that there were appropriate safeguards for the replenishment of the Fund.

21. Natural disasters must remain at the centre of attention of the international community. The consequences of underdevelopment were particularly evident when natural disasters occurred, and the prevention and mitigation of their effects must be an integral part of any development strategy. His delegation, therefore, welcomed the efforts of DHA to enhance United Nations capacity to meet the prevention and preparedness requirements of developing countries.

22. Emergency relief assistance and long-term development needed to be mutually reinforcing. The United Nations system had not so far acquired much experience in how to achieve that objective in practice. Patience might be needed as results might not be immediate. Nevertheless, it was important to grapple with the problem and not to shy away from its complexity.

23. Mr. YAKER (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa) said that ethnic, tribal and clan conflicts, civil war and natural disasters were afflicting Africa, where they had recently assumed unprecedented proportions. Those who suffered most were always the poorest and most vulnerable—children, mothers, the elderly and the disabled.

24. In many countries, such conflicts were aggravated by the arrival of thousands of refugees, as for example those from Somalia in Ethiopia and Kenya, from Angola and Mozambique in Malawi, and from Liberia and Southern Togo in neighbouring West African countries. At the same time, the African countries were attempting to rehabilitate and develop their economies. That kind of situation made it even more imperative and urgent to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to emergency aid, rehabilitation and development. It was evident that emergency situations in Africa arose precisely because of underdevelopment, and the failure both of Africa and the international community to create the necessary conditions for sustained development.

25. The regional commissions of the United Nations were well placed to play an important role in such a coordinated and integrated approach, not only because of their proximity to their member States but also because of the very nature of their activities. The Secretary-General had expressed his intention to strengthen the commissions, and to decentralize certain activities in order to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of United Nations action.

26. Everything pointed to the lack of a general framework for coordination: between sectors, between donors, between non-governmental organizations and Governments. Even priorities were not linked with the needs of the communities concerned. In those conditions, countries might eventually be unable to sustain their development. It was accordingly essential that humanitarian assistance should fit into a macroeconomic framework.

27. The Economic Commission for Africa had an obvious advantage among African organizations for coordinating the components of the Secretary-General's report "Agenda for Peace" dealing with post-conflict peace-building. As a result of its cooperation with regional organizations, it was well-placed to collect data pointing to potential emergency situations and to take measures to provide humanitarian aid, as well as to undertake rehabilitation operations and to meet reconstruction requirements. Its proximity to the hotbeds of tension and its capacity to identify rapidly the concrete action to be taken and to offer technical assistance upon request also gave it exceptional potential.

28. Some emergency situations could be foreseen before they degenerated into crises. Three examples were: Somalia, where the food shortage of 1985 had been a harbinger of the war that was to ravage the country; Zimbabwe and Zambia, indeed the entire southern African subregion, where drought had brought the Governments concerned to the brink of collapse; and the many African countries where the uncertainties surrounding the democratic process gave indication of possible future conflicts.

29. In order to accomplish its task, the Economic Commission for Africa must be in a position to promote policy coherence and programme coordination in the provision of emergency relief and follow-up action of a humanitarian, economic and social nature. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force responsible for the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was the appropriate coordinating body. The Commission's report entitled "Agenda on Emergency Humanitarian Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Affairs in Africa" mapped out the Committee's agenda for meeting the challenges of African emergencies in the 1990s and beyond. Copies of the report had been distributed informally to members of the Council.

30. Turning to examples of coordination carried out by the Commission, he said that, although the situation in Somalia still had a long way to go before it could be considered normal, the Commission had begun to prepare a master plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country in coordination with the United Nations sponsored 1993 programme for Somalia, the UNDP Bureau for the Arab States, DHA and UNOSOM. At the request of the Ethiopian transitional Government, it was also drawing up a master plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Tigre region, which was to serve as a test case for other regions of the country. It had been drafted in close cooperation with the UNDP Bureau in Addis Ababa, and in collaboration with other United Nations specialized agencies.

31. In Mozambique, where the situation called for immediate measures for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the productive and social sectors, the Commission was

actively participating in meetings on the humanitarian assistance programme. At the request of Angola and Eritrea, it was cooperating in the elaboration of master plans for the two countries in close coordination with DHA and the UNDP regional offices.

32. In conjunction with the Pan-African Centre for Social Action, the Commission had approached the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and various African inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to promote an "African humanitarian initiative" that would benefit peoples affected by civil strife and famine. The highly positive reaction had encouraged the Commission to propose the convening of a colloquium in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 March 1993 to work out an action plan for a network and structure to express African solidarity. The Final Act of the colloquium had been presented to the OAU Summit in Cairo in June 1993, where it had been welcomed.

33. In the final analysis, emergencies would not disappear unless their root causes were tackled: underdevelopment, inequities and social and economic injustice. Africa, and the developing countries in general, must be given support to enable them to join the world community as equal partners in building a common future.

34. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that, since Mr. Eliasson had been appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in March 1992, something seemed to have changed. While there was still much to be done, the varied and complex activities undertaken in the humanitarian field had been better coordinated. It was, however, still too early for the noble ideas of General Assembly resolution 46/182 to be given practical expression on the ground, in areas of conflict and camps for refugees and displaced persons. He wished to emphasize the importance of the leadership role of DHA in coordination matters. Owing to sound preparation and combined effort, humanitarian assistance had prevented the serious drought rife in southern Africa from resulting in a disastrous famine. That was a remarkable achievement and an example of what coordination should be: it had to be applied not only at the top but on the ground, in carrying out the practical tasks. As the Secretary-General had said, responsibility for implementation should be entrusted primarily to the most appropriate organization or body, with DHA ensuring coordination. For their part, resident coordinators had a dynamic role to play in emergency management. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should also be an effective instrument of coordination in working out strategies and seeking appropriate concerted responses to emergency situations.

35. It was obvious that the best coordination would be fruitless if the necessary financing was not forthcoming, and his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. It was important that heads of United Nations organizations and bodies should provide information on the arrangements made by them to build up reserves in order to strengthen their operational capacity to respond rapidly and in a coordinated way in the event of an emergency. His delegation, accordingly, supported the proposal to recommend to the General Assembly all adjustments necessitated by the increase in the number of emergency situations.

36. The consolidated appeals, of which 21 had been already launched over a period of 18 months for a total of $6 billion, were an important instrument in humanitarian assistance and should be reserved for emergencies genuinely requiring coordinated action by the system as a whole.

37. The continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development was of crucial importance and emergency aid must be provided in such a way as to promote long-term rehabilitation and development. He would personally prefer to replace the latter phrase by "sustainable development", which was more vivid and more in line with the current situation. The situation of the beneficiaries of emergency assistance would continue to be precarious unless they were provided with more lasting aid. That was an indication of the importance of ensuring that the rehabilitation phase should make it possible to restore damaged infrastructures and enable them to meet future emergencies more successfully. By their very nature, assistance and rehabilitation operations should address the underlying causes of the emergencies, which were undoubtedly many and complex, but in a field where the survival of mankind was at stake, every challenge must be met. He welcomed the statements of former speakers, including the representatives of Canada, UNDP, FAO, and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who had emphasized the need for a long-term view of the problems. Sustainable development must remain the primary target.

38. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) welcomed the expanding role of the United Nations in providing humanitarian assistance. That was one of its major responsibilities in consequence of the problems connected with the ending of the cold war, the unabated growth of the world's population, the deterioration of the environment, and the state of the world economy. Romania subscribed to the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality which should govern those activities, and also attached great importance to respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the national unity of States.

39. At the time when General Assembly resolution 46/182 had been adopted, the magnitude and complexity of the task to be accomplished had not been fully apparent, nor had the interrelationship between the political, security and humanitarian aspects of emergency situations been realized. Subsequently, events had repeatedly confirmed the need for a coherent and coordinated response to such emergencies by the system, including advanced planning and streamlined cooperation with the relevant partners. Greater flexibility was required to enable the United Nations system to respond more rapidly at the early stages of emergencies, to provide early warning information, to build reliable field-level arrange-

ments and to cope with situations in countries where there was no United Nations emergency response capacity.

40. The operation of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund had highlighted the need to make adjustment to take into account the current number of emergencies. The consolidated appeals should include the activities of non-governmental organizations and bilateral programmes. Some countries, including Romania, acted with less publicity in mobilizing resources through official or private channels, but their contributions to humanitarian assistance, especially when crises or disasters affected neighbouring countries, also expressed a commitment to human solidarity. The continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development must be maintained as laid down in resolution 46/182. Emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development, and the rehabilitation phase should provide an opportunity to improve infrastructures, facilities and services destroyed in the disaster.

41. The Romanian Government hoped that the Council would succeed in drafting agreed conclusions on the coordination of humanitarian assistance in order to strengthen the actions of Member States, of the United Nations and of their implementing partners.

42. Mr. GOUDYMA (Ukraine) agreed with Mr. Eliasson that it was essential to establish closer coordination between the United Nations, Member States and non-governmental organizations. The Emergency Relief Coordinator carried very heavy responsibilities and, in order to perform his duties, he would have to have sufficient resources at his disposal, and enough highly qualified staff; he should also be able to draw upon the services of other bodies. The ponderousness of United Nations machinery, which had been mentioned by the Secretary-General during his recent visit to Ukraine, could impede a rapid response to emergencies. It might, therefore, be advisable to give the Coordinator wider powers than were usually available to heads of department.

43. The security and juridical protection of United Nations personnel engaged in humanitarian assistance and peace-keeping operations must also be assured. Perhaps a legal instrument should be adopted to establish the status of personnel and provide for the necessary protection mechanisms at every stage of operations.

44. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, emergency assistance must make an effective contribution to the long-term rehabilitation and development of the recipient country, and, in that context, he recalled that a few years previously Ukraine had suffered the terrible Chernobyl disaster. It might have receded into the past as far as the international community was concerned, but, as Ukraine saw it, only international aid would make it possible to overcome the tragic consequences. He recalled, in that connection, that Mr. Eliasson was United Nations coordinator for international cooperation on behalf of Chernobyl.

45. The Emergency Relief Coordinator should be able to draw on a network of local offices. Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union had established centres for coordination with the United Nations and UNDP. The centres might be given responsibility for on-the-ground coordination in supplying aid, in predicting crisis risks and in reporting thereon. Again with a view to efficiency, provision should be made for the more active participation of non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and private capital in humanitarian assistance operations. Continuing links should be established with national emergency assistance coordination bodies, and Ukraine had established a body of that type under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister. Monitoring of operations was also necessary in order to avoid waste and overlapping, and DHA should have a branch responsible for monitoring and auditing accounts.

46. Mr. AITKEN (World Health Organization) said that four central coordination and human assistance mechanisms had been established: DHA, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and the consolidated appeals procedure. At the country, and sometimes regional, level coordination centred round the Special Representative or, more commonly, the Resident Coordinator. Finally, cooperation was carried out on a bilateral, or even trilateral basis, between specific programmes or agencies when less complex emergencies were involved. He wished to present WHO's views on the operations of those mechanisms.

47. DHA had an essential role to play and was fully supported by WHO, which considered that the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs should contribute to all discussions on peace-building or peace maintenance. Humanitarian questions should not, however, be used as means of exerting pressure. WHO attached great importance to the principle of neutrality.

48. WHO had benefited from donations under the consolidated appeals procedure. The follow-up could be improved: both institutions and donors should be given an opportunity from time to time to assess progress. If any appeal was not entirely met, the non-food sector should still receive a proportionate share in the resources raised.

49. WHO had received resources from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for both Somalia and the countries of the former Yugoslavia. It was desirable that donors should indicate as early as possible that contributions would be paid, even if actual payment would take some time. Undertakings of that sort would enable WHO to obtain corresponding resources from the Fund.

50. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee was working satisfactorily, but it was important to maintain the overall coordination functions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

51. At the country level, the information and early warning procedures were beginning to work. He drew attention to the important contribution of technical assessment missions prior to launching of the appeal. At a stage when an emergency situation had not been officially announced, it was important to send a technical assessment mission, the financing of which often proved difficult and should be provided from a central source.

52. Once operations had begun, all organizations were dependent on personnel working at the country level. Their selection and training were, therefore, of crucial importance, and a standard training manual should be used by all organizations. It was also indispensable to strengthen national capacities. The transfer of skills and prior planning were of central concern to WHO. It was particularly important to assure the continuum from emergency aid to development, but, as the representative of Austria had pointed out, the techniques available for that purpose were not very sophisticated. Neither Governments nor institutions possessed the internal coordination mechanisms to ensure such a continuum. That aspect should be borne in mind in the context of the consolidated appeals.

53. He recalled that the World Health Assembly had adopted unanimously earlier in the year a resolution deploring systematic breaches of medical ethics and calling upon all parties to armed conflicts to respect and apply the rules of international humanitarian law for the protection of the sick and wounded, and medical, nursing and other health personnel, and to respect provisions governing the use of Red Cross and Red Crescent markings. It had also urged parties to armed conflicts to refrain from all acts preventing or impeding the provision of medical assistance and services. Measures must be taken to ensure that that message was heeded.

54. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 46/182 defined the mandate of all organs and agencies of the United Nations system engaged in humanitarian assistance. The guiding principles were those of neutrality and respect for the territorial integrity of the recipient country; furthermore the consent of the recipient country was essential. However, in his report (E/1993/90), the Secretary-General gave information which appeared to run counter to those principles and which should therefore be studied carefully. It might be appropriate to strengthen the machinery introduced only a year ago. However the basic resolution should continue to be applied and the Secretary-General should ensure supervision of the machinery.

55. Like the Egyptian delegation, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to have information about the advantages accruing from the transfer of all the services of DHA to Geneva in order to bring them closer to most of the theatres of operation.

56. Mr. SAHLOUL (Observer for the Sudan) said that, in humanitarian affairs, the Sudan cooperated closely with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations under agreements to permit access to populations caught up in the civil war in the south of the country. That rescue operation had proved a success and set an example for many countries in similar situations.

57. His Government, accordingly, welcomed the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and the establishment of DHA. It was, however, not convinced that the new Under-Secretary-General should be asked to ensure that the humanitarian dimension was integrated in peace-making and peace-keeping activities and that humanitarian assistance was provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, which were the guiding principles of General Assembly resolution 46/182. The Sudan was not at all convinced that the decision-making organs of the United Nations fully respected those principles or that the major powers always made a distinction between national interest and respect for neutrality. On the contrary, they were cynically inclined to apply two different standards.

58. The new Emergency Relief Coordinator was also responsible for ensuring that emergency assistance was provided in ways that were supportive of rehabilitation and longer-term development so as to reduce dependency on emergency aid. According to the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90), however, the transition from relief to development had been impeded by the acute nature of the crises often involving the breakdown of authority and the absence of viable national and local structures, ethnic tensions, abuse of human rights, continuing political instability and generally unfavourable economic conditions. Although some of those impediments might be real, it sometimes happened that donor countries did not honour their pledges, that they tried to impose unacceptable conditions on recipient countries, and that they withheld aid as a measure of retribution or a means of political pressure. The Sudan had already had occasion to point out to relief organizations and donor countries that the major obstacle to the distribution of relief supplies in the country lay in the transport sector which lacked the necessary spare parts. A major European country, which should, under an agreement with the Sudan, have supplied spare parts for the railways, had cut off delivery as a sanction at a time when it was imperative to deliver assistance to populations in need. Such examples were legion in operations conducted by international organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries.

59. The proposals for country-level coordination seemed to be based on the model of a complete breakdown in the government machinery, i.e. the situation prevailing at present in Somalia. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General would assume overall responsibility for political, military and humanitarian questions. In the case of operational affairs, the in-country coordinator for humanitarian affairs would communicate directly with the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in New York. In those circum-

stances, the question that arose was how relief operations would be carried out, in the absence of acceptable guidelines and coordination with central and local authorities. The difficulties encountered on the ground were often explained by the fact that institutions of the United Nations system distanced themselves from the local authorities and aligned themselves with the political representatives of donor countries or cooperated too closely with non-governmental organizations whose relations with local authorities were strained: mutual distrust eventually impeded the delivery of assistance, by a real or imaginary infringement of the sovereignty of the country concerned and by damaging its relations with the United Nations. The Council should look more closely into that aspect of the question.

60. The establishment of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund was a welcome development. However, the ceiling assigned to it might be insufficient: it should be raised to $100 million and the scope of its activities should be broadened to cover the transport sector. His delegation urged the Council also to draw upon such organizations as the International Organization for Migration. With regard to the proposals concerning consolidated appeals, economic difficulty in donor countries should not be used as an excuse for withholding resources from programmes devised to deal with the increasing number of emergency situations.

61. Proposals for ensuring a smooth transition from emergency assistance to recovery and long-term development were welcome, but could only be applied if conditionality and selectivity were reduced to a minimum, if national institutions were closely consulted at each phase, and if the area allocated to the non-governmental organizations was supervised by the national authorities and the United Nations system.

62. Mr. WEBER (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) drew attention to a statement submitted by the International Federation on natural disasters, vulnerability and human rights, which had been circulated as document E/1993/NGO/4. It echoed both the concerns of delegations that wished to see the United Nations develop an early-warning system, and the views expressed during the high-level segment discussions of the World Summit for Social Development, when the subject of exclusion and marginalization had often been mentioned.

63. The International Federation supported the procedure set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182 and was collaborating closely with DHA. It saw the resources it had allocated to that cooperation as an investment for which there should be some tangible returns, in terms of help to greater numbers of people and the improvement in its own international relief operations.

64. The Secretary-General placed great emphasis in his report (E/1993/90) on the coordinating tasks of DHA in emergency situations, but had made little reference to the need for the Department to take control of humanitarian operations, which might on occasion lead to conflict with other parts of the United Nations system, notably the Security Council. The Secretary-General had made virtually no reference to the need for increased disaster preparedness at the local and national levels. That was a serious omission which was indicative of a tendency to concentrate upon the organization of post-disaster relief, which in the opinion of the International Federation, was inadequate.

65. The necessity of negotiating means of access to populations in need of assistance would undoubtedly assume increasing importance in the future, and that was also a question which was scarcely mentioned in the report. The Federation would like to receive clarification in that regard from the Department.

66. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee had still not achieved its full potential: the Department should accordingly demonstrate its capabilities for enterprise and leadership.

67. It would be helpful if details were given of how the consolidated appeals would be launched and utilized, otherwise they might soon become no more than ''wish-lists''. It would also be as well to know what steps were envisaged to strengthen links with the Bretton Woods institutions.

68. The Department reported that it had no ready access to information that would be useful to emergency assistance managers and decision makers. The International Federation wished to point out that it published the *World Disasters Report*, which might prove of use. However, it supported the development of an international emergency readiness and response information system, a Department initiative, which should allow all participants in a particular operation to have access to each other's databases.

69. The Secretary-General and some delegations recognized that measures should be taken to limit the damage caused by millions of land-mines laid in conflict zones. Not only mines but all military ordinance had to be cleared from those areas so that use of the land could be restored to the local people. In the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, efforts to that end were being intensified, following the example of the ICRC, which had recently held a symposium on the subject.

70. Several delegations had pleaded for greater disaster prevention and disaster preparedness, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs had asked Governments to take more responsibility for responding to emergency situations; that would require more effort in respect of prevention and preparedness. In that context, the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation formed a network whose potential was not fully exploited, and which did not understand why its funding was so difficult, particularly with regard to natural disaster preparedness programmes. The

Federation had extensive field experience and would like to be closely associated with activities of the United Nations system for the prevention of disasters and assistance to victims.

71. Mr. de WARLINGCOURT (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) stressed that it was important for non-governmental organizations that a United Nations central agency should coordinate emergency responses. He thought it desirable that DHA should assume overall coordination functions in complex situations, with direct lines of communication to the Secretary-General, as soon as the need was felt. For "straightforward" situations, a lead agency could continue to be designated on a flexible, pragmatic basis. But in the absence of an organization in the United Nations system mandated to lead operations in all circumstances, DHA and UNHCR should assume that role.

72. Non-governmental organizations wanted to be involved in preventive planning and emergency response activities at the outset of a crisis, since only by involving all concerned parties would it be possible to provide adequate and rapid relief and plan the basis for future reconstruction, in recognition of the need to ensure a relief-development continuum. Moreover, non-governmental organizations believed that their participation in all aspects of planning could improve service delivery from one crisis to another, and ensure their full commitment to durable solutions in whose choice they had participated under the guidance of the United Nations Coordinator. The International Council had demonstrated its commitment to the humanitarian coordination effort of the United Nations by seconding a senior staff member to the Department.

73. It was regrettable that budgetary restrictions were preventing the Department from disposing of experts with emergency relief experience in the field. It was also unfortunate that the Department's secretariat was divided between New York and Geneva, particularly in view of the importance of avoiding overlapping of relief activities. Moreover, the often artificial distinction between entities dealing with natural and those dealing with man-made disasters should be avoided as many elements of the humanitarian response were very similar in both cases.

74. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should not only endeavour to streamline the consolidated appeals procedure but should also take up the problems of security of staff involved in relief and de-mining operations. Attention should also be given to reinforcing skills in early warning, mitigation and disaster management. The training effort required was not only incumbent upon DHA but also upon staff in the countries affected, in particular in the third world.

75. Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico) said that, in the first year that the new DHA had been operating, in spite of the clear statement in General Assembly resolution 46/182 of the governing principles for humanitarian assistance—humanity, neutrality, and impartiality—those principles had been increasingly forgotten. It was difficult for his delegation to accept that humanitarian assistance decisions should be taken outside the General Assembly, of which the Department was an off-shoot. If the United Nations was to keep the respect and confidence of the international community, it was indispensable that its actions should be in line with the principles of the Charter and that humanitarian assistance should not be diverted from its proper purposes. It might also be necessary to define and classify the situations that warranted an appeal for humanitarian action on the part of the United Nations and to ensure that the same criteria were applied in similar situations. Who would, however, decide whether, when and how assistance should be provided?

76. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the effectiveness of the response of the United Nations system to emergency situations depended primarily on the quality of local arrangements. The Emergency Relief Coordinator must, in accordance with resolution 46/182, assume full responsibility for the response and keep in permanent contact with field representatives. With regard to country-level coordination, a field in which the United Nations had vast experience, it was essential to specify very clearly that the humanitarian assistance authority within the United Nations system was DHA, which must, for its part, consult the authorities of the assisted country on a continuing basis. Even in cases where the Secretary-General had designated, in the event of complex emergencies, an envoy or a special representative, the Department must remain in control of the situation, since it would be delegating potentially very wide powers in the field. For that reason, the quality of the staff recruited for that type of work was of crucial importance.

77. The volume of resources of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund should also be considerably increased and the Fund should be managed by the Coordinator. It was for the General Assembly to decide on those new operational arrangements at its forthcoming session.

78. The structure of the Department also needed to be strengthened to enable it to assume responsibility for the management of natural disasters. The flow of refugees and displaced persons was one of the most common phenomena of the current situation. It was not adequately covered in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90), and the Mexican delegation would wish to be provided with more detailed information at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. It would also like to have more information about collaboration between the Department and the ICRC and other international humanitarian organizations.

79. As far as the transition from assistance to rehabilitation and development was concerned, the United Nations should cooperate with non-governmental organizations.

80. The PRESIDENT invited members of the Council to address questions to the representatives of the agencies engaged in humanitarian assistance operations.

81. Mr. BOREL (International Committee of the Red Cross), replied to the Belgian representative, who had, at the preceding meeting, asked, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, how the International Committee assessed its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

82. The ICRC had attended all meetings of the Standing Committee and almost all of its working group meetings on various countries. It had also participated in the meetings on displaced persons and on the early-warning system. The meetings had made it possible to exchange information on current and future activities but the ICRC was sometimes present on the ground before or at the same time as the United Nations. The ICRC was, accordingly, in a position to describe the activities undertaken or planned, to provide information on the appeals that it had already made to its donors, and, where appropriate, make reference to its own appeal, without however including it in the consolidated appeal of the United Nations. Such reunions also provided an opportunity for the ICRC to reaffirm its independence of the United Nations, particularly in view of the tendency sometimes to consider it as an executing agent of the United Nations, a role it consistently disclaimed. It was essential to maintain that distinction at a time when the humanitarian factor was more and more bound up with political, and even military, factors. Generally speaking, the meetings were extremely useful for the vital coordination between the ICRC and the United Nations.

83. With regard to the internal functioning of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee itself, measures could certainly be taken to strengthen its decision-making powers, but, since it was not a member of the United Nations system, the ICRC would refrain from stating its views on that subject.

84. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator), referring to the relations between the political, peace-keeping and humanitarian aspects of the United Nations operations, noted that in recent years the Security Council's resolutions on complex emergency situations had often covered those three components. The Secretariat was obliged to comply with those resolutions and some of the points raised in that respect should be referred to the members of the Security Council. It was, nevertheless, clear that the role of the United Nations in the humanitarian field must continue to be based on the principles set forth in the basic texts, such as General Assembly resolution 46/182, with regard to the sovereignty and consent of Governments, or their responsibility to ensure access to populations needing assistance. The concepts of neutrality, impartiality and humanity were also extremely important, particularly as the United Nations was now involved at a stage when conflicts were raging and no longer only when they had been settled. Combining humanitarian and peace-keeping activities had not yet become a critical problem, and it was of the utmost importance that the United Nations, especially through the Security Council, should proclaim that human beings counted and that human distress was a security matter.

85. With regard to the establishment of emergency response teams, he pointed out that they were not intended to play an operational role. The despatch of such a team at the initial stage of an emergency would be the exception rather than the rule. In cases where the United Nations system was not present on the ground, as had been the case in Georgia and Tajikistan, it should be represented by a single team. In any event, any such teams would be composed almost exclusively of the representatives of regional institutions and experts.

86. The "lead agency" concept had been applied even before the adoption of resolution 46/182. Since then, new coordination mechanisms had been introduced: the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the consolidated appeals and DHA. It would be henceforth for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to define the structure required in a given situation, particularly a complex emergency situation. That also implied a division of responsibilities. A particular institution might therefore be entrusted with a key operational role, as was the case of the World Food Programme in Angola, or UNICEF in northern Iraq, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Yugoslavia and elsewhere. According to the traditional formula, the lead agency was assigned its mandate by the Secretary-General and subsequently delegated part of its powers to certain executing agencies. The new procedure would involve acting through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. It would therefore be preferable to use an expression such as "key operational organization" or some such term.

87. With regard to the location of the Department's main office, whether in New York or Geneva, referred to by the Egyptian and Syrian delegations, he thought it was important that humanitarian affairs should be dealt with at Headquarters not only because of the proximity of the Security Council, but also because of the strong interest that the Secretary-General was taking in those matters. That did not preclude the possible strengthening of the Office at Geneva, where the majority of the Standing Committee's meetings were held. The importance of humanitarian affairs justified such arrangements.

88. Mr. JOLLY (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that he wished to comment on the continuum from assistance to rehabilitation. Although, in certain Governments, particularly donor Governments, responsibility for development and for assistance lay with different bodies, it was often difficult to make that distinction. In the health sector, for example, some priority assistance activities, such as oral rehydration against diarrhoeic illnesses, and smallpox vaccination, were also development priorities. Measures taken in disaster relief planning could also be incorporated in long-term preventive or other measures.

89. He recognized that some emergency activities did not sufficiently involve the communities concerned, and, in that regard, capacity-building could be a useful means

of simplifying the transition to the development phase. In Liberia, for example, local communities were being asked to monitor the nutritional situation. Peace-making operations could also serve to make populations aware of potential future problems.

90. With regard to the problem of mines, consideration had to be given not only to the unspeakable human tragedies and devastation they were causing in some regions of the world, but also to the fact that it was not possible to cultivate the land on which they had been laid. A strategy was therefore clearly necessary to clear them from all accessible regions, perhaps by the year 2000. It was essential that Governments should realize the necessity of calling on the qualified bodies in the system in order to mobilize the necessary resources.

91. Mr. HJORT (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that he wished to emphasize that the quality of assessments largely determined the response to appeals, which were an important factor in the mobilization of resources; they, in their turn, determined the effectiveness of the activities undertaken. Hence, the importance of early-warning systems. Experience showed that evaluation capacities in the food sector were probably superior to those in any other field.

92. He also wished to point out that the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee depended on the problems involved. The organizations participating in its work submitted to it their policies, which had subsequently to be given a practical form. That applied to the complex emergency situations: the Standing Committee was the appropriate body to arrive at the operational definition required.

93. With regard to one of the comments of the delegation of the Sudan, he recalled that FAO was mandated to respond to applications for assistance by Governments. In all its activities, in the field of humanitarian operations, relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction or development, FAO acted only at the request of countries.

94. It was apparent from the various statements which had been made that the concept of coordination had many different aspects since it applied to joint activities with Governments, the evaluation process, the preparation of appeals or projects, the execution phase, financing, operations proper, etc. All those factors were aimed at a single objective, namely, helping Member States to overcome the humanitarian problems confronting them.

95. Mr. NEBENZYA (Russian Federation) asked whether the humanitarian operation undertaken in Abkhasia had provided any lessons for the emergency humanitarian assistance activities of the United Nations system. Another question was what should be done to ensure the protection of staff engaged in humanitarian assistance operations.

96. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) said that the operation mentioned by the representative of the Russian Federation highlighted the two main problems encountered by United Nations humanitarian activities: access and resources. In the event of a conflict, it was difficult to reach those needing aid, hence the importance of dealing with the underlying causes of that kind of situation in order to restore peace and security. In that respect, the United Nations was encountering considerable difficulties in other regions of the world, such as Angola and Liberia.

97. Specifically with regard to resources, the appeals on behalf of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kazakstan, for example, had yielded very meagre results: the pledges amounted to scarcely 8 to 15 per cent of the very modest sums requested. Member States must be asked what role they wished the United Nations to play in humanitarian operations in the former Soviet Union. It was essential that the situation should be clarified.

98. It was also important to decide on the modalities of the assistance that Georgia could provide in connection with the situation in Armenia. Because of the fighting and other problems, the United Nations had not been able to supply Armenia with the oil it needed to get through a severe winter, oil which was to have been transported from the Russian Federation across Georgia. That example showed the interdependence of the issues involved and possibly also the need to view the problems of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in a regional context—an idea currently under study by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

99. With regard to security, the United Nations system was confronted with a serious moral dilemma related, on the one hand, to the compassion aroused by peoples in distress, suffering from famine or other calamities, and, on the other, the need for solidarity with its own officials—those of the United Nations, other agencies and programmes, and non-governmental organizations providing operational aid on the ground—the number of casualties among whom was increasing from week to week.

100. All parties to conflicts should in particular be reminded of their obligation to respect the fundamental principles of humanitarian law. If the current situation were to persist, it might provoke a return to the law of the jungle and a backlash on the part of the donors financing those operations. For its part, the United Nations system must, with a view to improving staff security, take measures relating to recruitment, training, equipment, facilities for medical evacuation, communications and insurance cover, which would be extremely expensive, and financing for which would have to be discussed by the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In any event, some form of initiative in that field would be welcome.

101. Mrs. KARRE (Observer for Sweden) said that her delegation wished to emphasize once again the importance of a mechanism to enable the various entities in the United Nations system to cooperate with one another in order to overcome the problems they encountered. Whatever form such a concerted effort took, it must be made. The main thing was that the Inter-Agency Standing

Committee should function. The question was therefore what action the United Nations bodies intended to take to ensure that the Committee carried out its mission.

102. Mr. SETH (India) said that he understood that peace-keeping operations were financed from special budgetary resources, and humanitarian activities from voluntary contributions. It would, however, appear from the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/90) that, in some cases, humanitarian assistance was charged to the resources for peace-keeping operations following Security Council recommendations. It should, therefore, be determined whether such procedures were in conformity with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stated that the General Assembly, not the Security Council, should approve the allocation of the resources in question. He would like to know what the Secretary-General's views were on those final aspects: were voluntary contributions really inadequate and had they to be supplemented in effect out of budgetary contributions? That question had, in his opinion, important implications for the concept of "vertical integration" mentioned by several delegations in the course of the discussion.

103. Mr. HAMBURGER (Observer for the Netherlands) noted that the role of DHA appeared to be interpreted in various ways. Should it be confined to complex emergency situations, as the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the High Commissioner for Refugees had stated (19th meeting), or should it have a wider role, as the Secretary-General indicated in his report (E/1993/90) and as General Assembly resolution 46/182 hinted? His delegation hoped that Mr. Eliasson would be able to answer that question on behalf of the United Nations system.

104. Mr. KAARIA (Observer for Finland) emphasized that the Central Emergency Revolving Fund derived its "revolving" character from General Assembly resolution 46/182. He wondered to what extent the various agencies had adhered to the principle, also expressed in the resolution, that the resources they borrowed from the Fund should be reimbursed by priority withdrawal from the contributions they received. To what extent had they on their own account or in conjunction with DHA made additional efforts to find the necessary financial resources?

105. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator), replying to the representative of India, said that peace-keeping operations were financed out of quotas calculated according to a specific formula and that humanitarian programmes were financed by voluntary contributions. The problem was that the number and cost of peace-making activities had considerably increased, and were a burden upon humanitarian operations. Nevertheless, part of the cost of the latter was covered by the "peace-keeping" budget when a Security Council resolution included a humanitarian assistance component. For example, the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs and the related field structure set up by the Security Council were taken over by the peace-keeping operations financing mechanism. That also applied to some aspects of the operations in question which were related to humanitarian activities, such as the demobilization of troops and even de-mining. He hoped that peace-building activities would increasingly make use of teams of engineers, doctors and de-mining specialists, thus including a humanitarian component. The fact remained that, in the case of Somalia, for example, the amount of the appeal, $166 million, was to be derived entirely from voluntary financing. It had to be admitted that problems were being encountered in finding the necessary funds, in view of the fact that costs, particularly for security, were soaring.

106. In reply to the question asked by the Netherlands delegation, he pointed out that a major part of the work performed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee consisted, at the present stage, in improving the effectiveness of the activities of the system in complex emergency situations. That was a historical trend: the United Nations was now taking action in the midst of civil wars—a difficult and dangerous role, but one that could not be evaded. Nevertheless, the Organization was also taking action on natural disasters, the number of which also seemed to be increasing. It was its duty to meet these challenges by use of the appropriate capacities. He pointed out, in that connection, in response to questions by the observer for Egypt and the representative of Syria, among others, that all those capacities were centred in Geneva.

107. Many other emergency situations of a non-complex nature were treated differently. There was no occasion to make a consolidated appeal if the traditional procedures were adequate. The concept of the complex emergency situation should therefore be narrowly defined, as the High Commissioner for Refugees had requested: what was meant was an emergency situation in which particularly complex political and peace-making components were affecting the humanitarian operations, and seemed likely to persist for some time. Hence the necessity for specific action.

108. Ms. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme), replying to the observer for Sweden, thought that it would be preferable to wait for the next meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to review current activities.

109. Mr. HJORT (Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO intended to participate in the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group before the Standing Committee took up the questions referred to it. It was necessary to take into account the policy lines emerging from the various governing bodies, whether of non-governmental organizations or specialized agencies, so as to establish a solid basis to enable the Standing Committee to take the appropriate decisions.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

21st meeting

Friday, 2 July 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.21

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued*):

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (*continued*)

Address by Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of Eritrea

1. Mr. AFWERKI (President of Eritrea) said that he wished to draw attention to the uniqueness and gravity of the situation of his country and the special consideration it deserved from the international community.

2. The denial of justice to his people for almost half a century had led to Africa's longest war of national liberation, entailing immense loss of human life and property The hard-won military victory achieved in May 1991 had been subsequently reinforced by legal and political instruments placing the settlement on a firm basis in international law. With its independence and sovereignty thus established and justice restored, Eritrea was an oasis of peace and stability. Moreover, Eritrea and Ethiopia, after decades of bitter war and hostility, had established harmonious ties of mutual trust and cooperation. As the Eritrean conflict had been one of the major causes of instability in the Horn of Africa, its resolution could be expected to enhance significantly the prospects of enduring peace in that still grievously afflicted area.

3. Peace had not, however, brought an end to misery and suffering in Eritrea. A quarter of the population was still in exile, and an equal number displaced within the country. That dispersal, among other results of war, had severely depressed national productivity, especially in agriculture, which continued to suffer acute shortages of capital, implements and facilities. The manufacturing industries that had existed in the 1950s and 1960s had been allowed to run down through negligence, wanton destruction and mismanagement, and the country did not have the necessary financial resources to renovate plants or purchase spare parts. Far from contributing to the growth of the national economy, the sector was currently a drain on meagre resources. The main port of Massawa had been destroyed and was operating below capacity. The railway line linking it with the capital, Asmara, and extending to major towns and cities in the western part of Eritrea, had been entirely dismantled. The principal roads and bridges were worn out for want of repair and the passage of tanks and other heavy weaponry.

4. The provision of basic services, such as running water and electricity, was confined to limited areas in a couple of cities. Medical services were almost nonexistent. Education and training had been so seriously neglected as to threaten the country with a lack of qualified personnel to replace the pre-war generation.

5. The previous regime had not permitted the growth of civilian institutions, except a few attached to its military machine, and its collective distrust of Eritreans had meant that few could acquire training and experience in civil administration. The corrupt administrative policies and practices of the regime had left their mark on civic society.

6. That grim reality had been compounded by the recurrent droughts of the 1980s, which had greatly reduced vegetation, denuded forests, lowered the water table, and eroded fertile land, precipitating dangerous ecological degradation and destruction.

7. Thus, the people of Eritrea were living in appalling impoverishment. The situation was unique in the sense that it was not the result of wrong policies or mismanagement, but a legacy of occupation and war, and as such could not be readily reversed by policy reforms. Moreover, it had to be placed on record, not from a wish to assign blame but simply to put matters in historical perspective, that the 30-year war had come about as a result of the denial of basic human and national rights to Eritrea by the international community. The international community bore moral responsibility since the devastation wrought on his country had been carried out first through the support of the United States of America for the Haile Selassie regime, and, subsequently and much more brutally, through the support of the former Soviet Union for the Mengistu regime. But over and above those moral considerations, the magnitude of the problem, and the fact that it was not commensurate with the means and resources of the Eritrean people and its Gov-

ernment, was a compelling reason for the international community to assist in its resolution.

8. Recognizing the situation could only be remedied by a comprehensive and integrated approach, the Government had drawn up a programme of reconstruction and recovery. A full assessment had been made of the situation, a long-development strategy had been worked out, priorities had been set, feasibility studies made, projects formulated, and guidelines for implementation drafted and refined. The Government had attached particular attention to institution-building in order to establish an efficient civil administration and had given priority to the development of its human resources. The overall approach had also been linked to sectoral and regional measures so as to promote participatory development and devolution as a democratic mechanism.

9. Although seriously impeded initially by political controversy over the legal status of Eritrea, the Government had succeeded in putting the necessary institutional and administrative instruments in place in order to smooth the progress of the rehabilitation recovery programme. With the assistance of United Nations agencies, particularly the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Government had worked out a comprehensive programme for the phased repatriation and reintegration of the half million Eritrean refugees in Sudan.

10. What was so far conspicuously lacking was international assistance commensurate with the country's needs. He had deliberately avoided talking about relief, recovery and development assistance as separate items because the issues were inseparable in the case of Eritrea. The impact of assistance on recipient communities did, however, call for a special comment. The Government believed that all assistance must include built-in mechanisms of sustainability with a view to recovering at least part of the funds for other development projects and purposes. Such concepts as food for work, monetization of relief aid, rural and urban credit systems, revolving funds for long-term disaster relief, and concessionary loans must be explored, adapted, and expanded where appropriate. Such mechanisms would reduce the burden on the donor community by recuperating at least part of the initial outlays and also help in restoring the dignity of the recipients.

11. In implementation of aspects of those mechanisms, various Government Departments, restructured as Ministries, had worked out programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction, in such fields as afforestation, dam building, road repair and the drilling of wells, using relief aid as payment in kind to distressed but able-bodied citizens. Pilot schemes had been introduced to test the viability of a revolving fund, notably in the project to rebuild residential areas in Massawa destroyed by a hailstorm in April. The refugee repatriation and reintegration programme worked out with United Nations agencies had several components that encouraged the employment of returning persons and resident communities to build necessary infrastructures in the new and expanded settlement areas. On a more general level, government policy was not aimed at subsidizing basic services but at creating an enabling environment for the population to earn and pay for their social requirements.

12. Those policy directions could only have full meaning if Eritrea received significant support at the present critical stage to enable it to stand on its own feet. He hoped that the Council would take stock of that situation, and that the donor pledging conference on the repatriation and reintegration programme scheduled for 6 July 1993 would approach the whole scheme within that conceptual framework of initial and significant support so as to break the spiral of continuous relief hand-outs. In addition, his Government believed that the urgency and uniqueness of the situation required the convening of an international conference, possibly under United Nations auspices, in order to deal with the whole task of rehabilitation and recovery in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

13. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded the general discussion of agenda item 2 (*a*).

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.

22nd meeting

Monday, 5 July 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.22

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued*):

(*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to discuss coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, in the light of the Secretary-General's report on the subject (E/1993/68) and of the statements to be made by executive heads of United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned with those problems.

2. Dr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General, World Health Organization) drew attention to the extent and gravity of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, which had their greatest impact in developing countries, particularly among the workforce, pregnant women, infants and young children. Malaria particularly affected Africa, where 90 per cent of the 300 million people infected by the parasite were to be found. Diarrhoeal diseases primarily affected children, some 3 million of them dying of it each year. Cholera was an epidemic form of diarrhoeal disease which appeared periodically in Africa, Asia and Latin America. All those diseases called for coordinated action, extending beyond the bounds of the health sector.

3. In his report, the Secretary-General gave examples of cooperation among organizations of the United Nations system. Such cooperation was essential, since the diseases concerned had a multitude of causes. They cut across frontiers, and their prevention and control required action in such fields as agriculture, education, economic development policy, environmental management, food safety, health, sanitation, water supply and water-resource management.

4. The United Nations system must tackle malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, because they constituted major impediments to social and economic development and to improvement of the quality of life of millions of individuals. They generated a vicious circle of malnutrition, poverty and disease. Their cost in development terms was enormous. The United Nations system could be proud of the cooperation it had established in the field, although good news seldom made headlines. Nevertheless, coordination of the various parties was not without its problems, particularly in cases of civil unrest, epidemics, natural disasters, war or famine. Added to those were problems such as the varying perspectives of different organizations, lack of clarity in the role of the lead agency, the low priority given to critical investments and the weak technical and management capabilities of some countries.

5. As an example of successful coordination, one could point to the recent cholera epidemic in Peru. The mortality rate had not exceeded 1 per cent, whereas it had reached 5 to 10 per cent in the case of epidemics in some African countries. That success could be attributed to the Peruvian diarrhoeal disease control programme, including the use of oral rehydration therapy, the quality of treatment given in health facilities, the accessibility of those facilities and food hygiene. The development of that infrastructure had been supported in a coordinated manner by several organizations, including WHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WFP and the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee formed under the aegis of the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, the Pan-American Health Organization and the United States Agency for International Development. But there were problems. For example, it had been impossible to prevent the installation of a cordon sanitaire around Peru. Moreover, the basic investment required to prevent cholera epidemics was not taking place at the necessary pace. The lack of understanding of the need for food control measures in preventing diarrhoeal diseases impeded intersectoral action and, in addition, a new cholera bacillus had appeared.

6. The Secretary-General pointed out that a balance must be struck between the effectiveness of investments narrowly made for specific disease interventions and the effectiveness of broader investments in infrastructure. By "infrastructure", he meant health workers, epidemiological surveillance, rehabilitation or construc-

tion of health facilities, investment in fields such as food safety, water supply, sanitation and education of children or mothers.

7. The report before the Council contained a number of recommendations, which Dr. Nakajima would briefly summarize: efforts should be made to define broad policies for development contributing to the overall health goal; the lead organization must be supported; WHO should expand its research activities; information exchange among agencies, organizations and Governments was of critical importance; coordination mechanisms for early warning, prevention and control of epidemics must be improved; national and global monitoring systems for the diseases concerned must be strengthened, particularly in the light of the principles laid down at the Ministerial Conference on Malaria Control, organized by WHO in Amsterdam in 1992; individuals must be very specifically informed about prevention, and they must be involved in disease control. The booklet *Facts for Life*, published by UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO, was a good example of cooperation in that field.

8. In particular, it was necessary to strengthen disease surveillance mechanisms, including early-warning systems for malaria and cholera epidemics. However, that did not dispense United Nations bodies or countries themselves from using epidemics, which attracted considerable attention, as an opportunity to invest in longer-term development activities to ensure that further epidemics did not occur. The most important contribution that the United Nations system could make to support developing countries in that field was to build up their national capabilities for the management of country-level coordination. All United Nations organizations and bodies were concerned, and must work together in that endeavour.

9. Mr. JOLLY (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said he would first take up the question of diarrhoeal diseases, particularly cholera, which 10 years previously had claimed the lives of 4 to 5 million children. Today, thanks to oral rehydration therapy, which was now widely known and used by one family in three in the developing countries, it was possible to save the lives of 1 million young people each year. That therapy had been one of the most advanced elements of primary health care in the 1980s. Together with immunization, it could also help to create conditions favourable to family planning and the reduction of fertility. All of that could be done at an extremely modest cost: the 100 million sachets of salts provided by UNICEF in 1992 amounted to only 1 per cent of its annual budget. The World Bank, in its *World Development Report 1993* had identified the therapy as one of the most cost-effective development investments possible.

10. There was thus a need to continue to promote oral rehydration, in view of the fact that two thirds of families in the developing world had still not made use of it, and that dehydration still caused 1.5 million deaths a year. WHO and UNICEF had set themselves the common goal of bringing the proportion of families using oral rehydration and continued feeding up to 80 per cent, and bringing the proportion of cases treated (at home, at health facilities or by a health provider) and the proportion of persons with access to rehydration salts and of informed mothers up to 80 per cent in all countries.

11. However, it was clear that the campaign against diarrhoeal diseases had to be broadened. First, the rapid reduction in dehydration deaths brought about by oral rehydration meant that an increasing proportion of the remaining deaths was attributable to dysentery and chronic diarrhoea, which normally required treatment with antibiotics. At the same time, it could be seen that diarrhoeal diseases were one of the causes, perhaps the major cause, of child malnutrition in developing countries. Those diseases stunted the child's normal growth by causing loss of appetite, fever and loss of nutrients. The strategy for the 1990s should therefore be to restore priority to water supplies and public sanitation, as well as to educating parents about diarrhoeal disease prevention. Today, prevention on a large scale and at low cost had become possible. The principal means were breast-feeding, immunization against measles, and basic hygiene. The 1990 World Summit for Children had set as targets the reduction of child deaths by one third and the reduction of child malnutrition by one half, but those targets could not be achieved unless the battle against diarrhoeal diseases was widened.

12. Dr. Nakajima had just quoted as an example the campaign to control the cholera epidemic in Peru. In the first nine months of 1991, 250,000 Peruvians had contracted the disease, but only 2,500 had died of it. There were a number of reasons for such a low mortality rate: mobilization of health workers of the national network (at a time when they were on strike); mobilization of women who had been trained in oral rehydration since 1987; and availability of oral rehydration salts which had already been put in place in preparation for the annual campaign to control childhood diarrhoea. It had thus been possible to distribute 3 million sachets in the course of a few months. Incidentally, the lives of some 100,000 to 150,000 young people in Latin America had been saved in 1991 because the public had been made aware of oral rehydration therapy as a result of the cholera epidemic. Before the end of the decade, 19 million more children could be saved if families, communities, government authorities and donors were mobilized.

13. Turning to the problem of malaria, he pointed out that the great majority (80 per cent) of deaths from the disease occurred among children under 5 years of age. Unlike the situation with diarrhoeal diseases, no strategy that was quick and easy to implement had yet been found, since no vaccine existed. Ways of overcoming drug resistance were being sought, and experiments were being made with personal protection devices such as impregnated mosquito netting. Efforts were also being made to develop effective mosquito eradication techniques. As could be seen, malaria could not be treated by a simple package of solutions. There was a need to de-

ploy a flexible mix of methods, such as insecticide spraying, environment control, promotion of mosquito netting, preventive drugs, and secondary health care. That combination could vary considerably between rural and urban areas, and should be largely dependent on local action and on-the-spot initiatives.

14. Those examples showed to what extent the role of UNICEF and that of WHO were complementary. In the matter of malaria, as in that of oral rehydration, it was WHO that led the way, and it deserved commendation for the consistently high quality of its work. However, UNICEF also had a role to play, notably through its network of non-governmental and community organizations, bodies which could be a decisive force for popular mobilization. UNICEF also had links with the media, and could often instil in the public at large an awareness of the measures that families had to take. Moreover, it was able, through its country programmes, to provide substantially greater resources at the national level. One of the initiatives that illustrated the partnership between WHO and UNICEF was the brochure *Facts for Life*, published jointly by UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and UNFPA. That brochure was by far the most widely circulated of United Nations publications: 7 million copies had been produced in over 180 languages. Its aim was to teach families the basic steps to take to safeguard their children's health.

15. At both the international and the national levels, the mobilization campaign currently under way sought to achieve the goals set by the 1990 World Summit for Children, particularly the aim of a 50 per cent reduction in child mortality due to diarrhoea and a 25 per cent reduction in the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases. Consideration also needed to be given to measles, a major killer of children, and to anaemia, which when associated with malaria often led to tragic results.

16. In conclusion, he drew attention to certain cause-and-effect factors which should not be overlooked. Adjustment programmes were a central element where health problems were concerned. It was not merely coincidental that cholera should have appeared in Latin America after a decade of economic crisis, a crisis that had too often called for disproportionate sacrifices on the part of the poor and of the social services. The same could be said of the resurgence of malaria in Africa.

17. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said he found it most appropriate that the subjects of health, environment and development on the one hand, and of coordination on the other, should all be under consideration simultaneously. The goal of human development required cooperation with the world community in combating poverty, ignorance and disease. Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases were threats to the human development of millions of people in the third world.

18. UNDP viewed the World Bank's *World Development Report 1993*, devoted to health, as highly significant in that regard: first, it provided a new set of statistics on the effects of those diseases, which should enable decision makers to establish priorities and to take rational budgetary decisions in the health sector; secondly, it showed that a substantial increase in the financial resources allocated to that sector was amply justified. UNDP noted with concern the decrease in available resources, and believed that Member States should work together, collectively and individually, to remedy the situation. Africa was particularly affected by malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, the direct and indirect costs of which were expected to reach $1.8 billion by 1995.

19. As had been pointed out by the representatives of WHO and UNICEF, despite the progress made in some areas, numerous reverses had been suffered at the global level, notably the worsening of the problem of malaria, and the continuing burden represented by diarrhoeal diseases and the recent cholera epidemics. It went without saying that UNDP would continue to cooperate closely with Governments and partner organizations to prevent and control those diseases. It endorsed the practical suggestions made by the Secretary-General for dealing more effectively with malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, and also supported the comments made by the representative of UNICEF on the importance of oral rehydration therapy. UNDP also associated itself with the call for a substantial increase in resources, especially for the least developed countries and for countries most severely affected by the diseases.

20. In view of the need for a multisectoral approach involving health, environment and development, recipient countries should play a key role by ensuring that the activities of United Nations bodies were coordinated at the local level with assistance, both multilateral and bilateral. The role of the resident coordinator was crucial in that regard, and the Associate Administrator unreservedly supported implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. It was to be hoped that Governments of developing countries, for their part, would give higher priority to combating the diseases in question, and that country strategy notes would give greater emphasis to the support that could be provided by the United Nations system in that field.

21. Mr. HADDAD (World Bank), speaking also on behalf of FAO and UNESCO, pointed out that the World Bank and the two latter institutions had contributed to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68), under the overall direction of WHO. The three organizations intended to cooperate with WHO and with other institutions in implementing the conclusions and recommendations made in the report, taking account also of any general guidelines the Council might be able to provide. They were ready to reply to any questions that might be raised, and to make further comments in the course of the debate as necessary.

22. Mr. OSMAN (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme) said that disease transmission by insect vectors was linked to environ-

mental conditions on which the vector thrived: rudimentary sanitation, bad solid-waste management and poor water supply. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68), UNEP was participating in malaria-control activities, mainly through the work of the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control established jointly with WHO, FAO and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Panel's mandate was to create an institutional framework for effective inter-agency and intersectoral collaboration in the fields of health, land and water development, protection of the environment, human settlements and urbanization, with a view to promoting more extensive use of environmental management measures for disease vector control in development projects.

23. The Panel of Experts, which had initially given priority to raising awareness at all levels, had later started preparing technical documents and guidelines aimed chiefly at specialists and decision makers outside the health field. A network of collaborating centres had enabled it to participate directly in research, capacity-building, and operational activities. It was already playing a key role in coordination, since it was composed of recognized experts in the fields of health, agriculture, environment, social sciences and human settlements. Its work was also associated with that of the World Bank, UNICEF and the regional development banks.

24. Other activities being carried out by UNEP in the area of malaria and water-borne disease control were described in the Secretary-General's report.

25. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the time had come to launch a new offensive against malaria, which clinically affected more than 100 million people a year, mainly in tropical Africa. The disease caused some 1 million deaths a year, which was more than the number of declared AIDS victims. A global malaria control strategy had been developed, aimed at the prevention of mortality and the reduction of morbidity as well as its attendant social and economic costs. The strategy called for coordination and technical cooperation between Governments and international institutions if continuity of the activities undertaken was to be ensured.

26. Due attention should also be paid to the control of diarrhoeal diseases, notably cholera, which since the beginning of the 1990s had again become rife in Latin America and Africa. A short-term policy of prevention and reduction of mortality should go hand in hand with a longer-term policy based on health and sanitation projects. To that end, financial, technical and scientific support from the international community was more necessary than ever.

27. In view of the fact that malaria and diarrhoeal disease control was as much a problem of development in general as a health problem, improved coordination among United Nations specialized agencies, and above all between the latter and local authorities, was essential. The European Community and its member States had several comments to make in that regard. First, there was a need to establish what proportion of their financial resources each of the institutions involved was devoting to control of the two types of disease, taking into account the specific nature of their budget and the division of responsibilities between them. Secondly, coordination of global strategies and country plans of action by United Nations agencies did not seem to have been sufficiently developed. Thirdly, the implementation of those strategies and plans at the local level was still encountering numerous bureaucratic and even political obstacles. Fourthly, a proper balance should be struck between emergency aid and a medium-term and long-term global assistance policy. Fifthly, development projects in general did not pay sufficient attention to sanitation and public health, or to education in that field. Sixthly, there was a need for improved cooperation with non-governmental organizations, which should be able to play a full part in all efforts made by local, regional and international authorities.

28. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) recalled that the item under consideration had been included in the Council's agenda on the suggestion of his country, supported by the Group of African States and the Group of 77. As was noted in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68), over 300 million people suffered from malaria, 90 per cent of them in Africa. It was the scourge of the late twentieth century. In cases where it did not kill, it considerably weakened the organism and led to a significant lowering of output among the working population. The large-scale use of DDT, like treatment based on chloroquine and other similar products, had led to vector insects becoming resistant to such substances.

29. The hopes aroused by the development of a new synthetic vaccine were commensurate with the human, social and economic problems deriving from malaria. The question remained whether that vaccine would provide immunity against the four malarial parasites or forms and how long the protection would last. It was also of considerable importance how it was marketed, considering that the populations affected by malaria were among the poorest in the world and would not therefore be able to benefit from the vaccine if it were too expensive. The Beninese delegation was of the view that a free and general vaccination campaign should be carried out in all the affected areas of the world, as it had been for smallpox.

30. However, the elimination of malaria did not depend on the discovery of a vaccine alone. A large number of other measures were also necessary, particularly in the fields of sanitation and public health. Malaria, as the price paid for poverty and underdevelopment, had to be tackled not only at the medical level, but also at the economic, social and ecological levels. If countries where malaria was endemic had the requisite technical and financial resources, the scourge could no doubt be completely eradicated within a few years. Such was not

the case, however. There was therefore a need to coordinate the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations organs in order to overcome the disease.

31. Malaria, an endemo-epidemic disease, killed more than 1 million children in the world every year. In addition, the cost of treatment, absenteeism and the resulting drop in productivity and production drained the economies of the countries concerned. Benin considered that the implementation of the primary health care strategy should make it possible to reduce to a minimum the impact on the population of communicable diseases in general and endemic diseases in particular. In order to cope effectively with the situation, which was giving cause for concern owing to the resistance of certain parasite strains, Benin had decided to revise its primary health care strategy and to incorporate into it a five-year malaria control plan.

32. With regard to diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, he stressed that the figures put forward in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report did not seem to reflect either the real cost of treatment for the disease or the true loss of earnings in working time. Treatment for an attack of malaria in Benin cost between $20 and $30.

33. Diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, were very serious ailments, but could easily be avoided in so far as they were water-borne. Unfortunately, the poor countries where those diseases were rife did not have the resources needed to supply the whole of their population with drinking water. In addition, the existing anti-cholera vaccine offered protection that was not sufficiently long-lasting to be truly useful. It was suitable for people occasionally staying in the affected areas but was of no interest to those living in them. According to information available to the Beninese delegation, a new vaccine could be available by the end of 1993. Unfortunately, it would undoubtedly be too expensive for the poor populations of the affected areas. The international community's efforts should therefore be directed towards lowering the cost of the vaccine.

34. As in the case of malaria, the discovery and marketing of a vaccine against cholera would not suffice to eradicate diarrhoeal diseases unless measures were taken to ensure proper management of freshwater resources. In that connection, he reaffirmed his support for the French proposal to organize an expert meeting in 1994 on freshwater resource management, and for the suggestion of the Netherlands to convene an expert seminar on safe sanitation in urban areas.

35. The Secretary-General had not referred to the initial, specialized and further training of personnel for preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera. Sound training would not fail to give momentum to research in the developing countries. There was an urgent need for such institutions as WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNEP and FAO to coordinate their activities in the field of research, education and control with a view to the elimination of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

36. Mr. MALYCHEV (Russian Federation) said that, in his opinion, the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68) was well balanced and gave a clear idea of the magnitude of some of the economic and social problems facing many African, Latin American and Asian countries affected by malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

37. The decision to include the question of malaria in the agenda of the Economic and Social Council was in keeping with the spirit of the Declaration adopted in October 1992 by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria, organized by WHO in Amsterdam. In that Declaration, the Governments of countries endemically affected by malaria had declared themselves ready to mobilize national resources to combat that disease and had called on the international community, and international organizations in particular, to provide them with technical and financial assistance.

38. The delegation of the Russian Federation felt that the coordination of efforts to secure financial assistance for national programmes to combat malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and cholera should be one of the chief objectives of international organizations, particularly WHO which could act as lead agency at the technical level. Furthermore, essential though it was to finance programmes to combat those diseases, it was just as important to provide for short-term financial and technical assistance in order to put an end to epidemic outbreaks of them.

39. The delegation of the Russian Federation considered that the Economic and Social Council should request the Director-General of WHO to expand and improve the exchange of information on those diseases in order to make international institutions more aware of the health problems facing the developing countries; to improve coordination of international aid for the struggle against malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and cholera at the national level, through the establishment of groups of experts composed of representatives of the various international organizations concerned and of the governmental or non-governmental organizations that were providing interested countries with financial and technical assistance, and of representatives of the private sector; and to strengthen the technical role of WHO. Greater importance also needed to be given to the socio-economic development of countries suffering from those diseases.

40. Mr. SARN (United States of America) thought that the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68) and the statements by the officials of the various international organizations were instructive about the nature and magnitude of the diseases concerned. It was fully recognized that techniques existed for preventing or treating those diseases, but the implementation of programmes, the use of resources and coordination were still beset by serious difficulties. He wondered why so little progress had been

achieved in respect of coordination. The Secretary-General had omitted certain essential elements in that regard. He made no provision for any practical workplan calculated to result in optimum use of the resources available to the United Nations system at the global, regional or national levels. Then there was no analysis of the resources needed. Furthermore, no timetable was proposed for the implementation of programmes by international organizations. In addition, the organization to act as lead agency for coordination remained to be determined. The United States delegation considered that the role should fall to WHO or UNICEF in view of the success achieved by those organizations. It hoped that the President would make good those omissions in his report. In that report, the Council should request each United Nations body to improve its plans and programmes for the prevention, control and treatment of the diseases in question, with the object in particular of lessening their economic impact on the developing countries. It should also invite the Secretary-General to request the Directors-General of WHO and UNICEF to prepare a report for its 1994 session, in close cooperation with other United Nations bodies, on the improvement of coordination in respect of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

41. The PRESIDENT recalled that the debate in progress would not be followed by the drawing up of a "report by the President", but by the adoption of agreed conclusions containing specific recommendations on the matters addressed.

42. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan) recalled that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council had a key role to play in the coordination of economic, social, cultural and health activities. Unfortunately, it had not so far been kept informed of all the activities carried out by the various international organizations, such as WHO, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and others, so as to be able to ascertain the degree of urgency and priority of each activity. It was therefore essential for the Council to take steps to obtain the necessary reports from all the bodies concerned.

43. For successful coordination to be achieved, there should be a consensus within the system and among Member States as to which was to be the lead organization for coordination. That organization should then be provided with all the necessary information and its mandate should be respected by all organizations and Member States.

44. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68) offered an overview that should contribute to the improvement of coordination of the related activities of the United Nations system. Japan fully subscribed to the view that the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, required action extending far beyond the health sector. The Council should restructure its relations with the bodies concerned in order to be better able to promote such action. It was particularly important in that field to formulate a prevention and control strategy within the overall framework of development policy. In combating malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, it was essential for WHO to make the best use of its expertise so that it could play a leadership role in coordinating the activities of the agencies involved.

45. The Japanese delegation noted with particular interest the Global Malaria Control Strategy adopted in 1992 in Amsterdam by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria and the diarrhoeal disease control programme, formulated jointly by UNICEF and WHO. It welcomed the Council's decision at its organizational session to reach agreed conclusions containing specific recommendations on matters related to coordination addressed to the various parts of the United Nations system.

46. It proposed that an intersessional consultative mechanism should be set up to enable the Council to exchange information and views with the bodies concerned and, on that basis, to prepare a draft decision for adoption at the next substantive session.

47. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that his country was one of those which had succeeded in being malaria-free for three decades. The success was the result of implementing a complex programme combining the use of chemotherapy and insecticides in the former endemic zones. The Romanian authorities were currently devoting special attention to preventing a resurgence of the disease, *inter alia* through local research on new antimalaria drugs. The Romanian health authorities were willing to share their experience in that field and to engage in cooperation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the training of foreign personnel in malaria diagnosis and treatment.

48. With regard to diarrhoeal diseases, cholera had appeared in Romania for the first time in 1977, its epidemic form in the Danube delta was a result of its spread from various endemic zones. Since then, sporadic cases had been notified during the summertime, when tourist traffic increased in the area concerned. Romania wondered whether it was possible to improve national and international sanitary regulations in endemic areas so as to prevent the spread of cholera in view of increased flows of migrants or travellers. It would welcome more detailed information about epidemics, with a view to tightening health controls at borders and taking preventive action at the national level.

49. Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) said that Canada shared the international community's alarm at the threat of malaria spreading, the high incidence of diarrhoeal diseases and the re-emergence of cholera in the Americas. The campaign against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, like all other health and development issues, had to be addressed at several levels. In communities themselves, much could be achieved through mobilization, health education, distribution of oral rehydration salts and treated mosquito nets, as well as micro-projects for

environmental sanitation. At the national level, the campaign implied consideration of environmental factors, since an increased effort was required in the areas of sanitation, food and water purity, housing and health services. At the international level, the situation could be improved considerably by means of data collection and exchange, standard-setting for prevention, care and treatment, and research into new drugs, vaccines and the like; it was at that level that coordination was crucial.

50. Cooperation between WHO and UNICEF in diarrhoeal disease control was exemplary at the national and international levels alike, particularly since the launching of the initiative for the integrated management of the sick child. The same could be said of cooperation among WHO, UNDP and the World Bank in malaria control, through the research programme for tropical diseases. Canada welcomed the adoption, in Amsterdam in 1992, of the new Global Malaria Control Strategy.

51. Canada, a major donor to the diarrhoeal control programme and the research programme for tropical diseases, urged the international community and organizations of the United Nations system to continue their support of those coordination mechanisms.

52. Mr. SOH (Republic of Korea) said that, in order to improve the coordination of programmes to control malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, the limited resources available must be used in the most efficient manner. In particular, a common strategy for coordinating programmes, embodying specific priorities and goals, must be developed. Such coordination could also eliminate overlapping and duplication. Likewise, the United Nations system should focus much more clearly on preventive action and programmes, rather than on remedial measures.

53. For prevention programmes to be successful, the links between the United Nations system on the one hand, and the beneficiary countries' authorities on the other, must be strengthened. Such cooperation must also be designed with the long-term perspective in mind, and directed at building up national capabilities.

54. There was no doubt that greater attention should be directed towards important areas such as drinking water supply and sanitation, broader hygiene education and infrastructure improvement, with a more active search for solutions to the basic socio-economic problems which had an impact on public health. These goals could more easily be achieved if development agencies systematically integrated public health considerations into development planning.

55. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the constructive recommendations formulated in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/68), aimed at better coordination of actions to combat malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The resurgence of malaria also meant that, in addition to the actions proposed, research should focus on the development of a suitable pesticide to replace DDT.

56. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to put questions to the representatives of the United Nations agencies directly involved in intensifying the campaign against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

57. Mr. SCHONLEITER (Germany) asked the representatives of UNDP and the World Bank whether those two agencies systematically consulted WHO when implementing water management projects, such as irrigation projects.

58. Mrs. GRANT (United Kingdom) noted that the Secretary-General seemingly regretted the lack of a lead agency and the sign of some differences in the way in which various United Nations bodies planned their action. She wondered whether one of the agencies participating in the discussion could make recommendations aimed at overcoming that sort of obstacle.

59. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) noted that the Secretary-General referred to difficulties encountered in coordination at the national level, adding that, in the absence of infrastructure, such coordination sometimes had to be imposed from outside. He wondered what the agencies of the United Nations system, UNDP and WHO in particular, thought about such difficulties—whether they could be surmounted and, if so, how.

60. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) asked whether the new anti-malaria vaccine to which he had referred was already approved and whether it offered genuine hope for millions of malaria sufferers. He also asked whether WHO had undertaken research into certain forms of malaria hitherto confused with some forms of AIDS.

61. Mrs. KERN (Australia) said she shared the regret felt by several delegations in noting that the Secretary-General had not mentioned any plan of action or timetable relating to the control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. She also regretted that the management of research and development was not completely unified.

62. Mr. QUAUNINE (Bangladesh) said that WHO definitely had the requisite capacity to act as lead agency among those directly involved in the control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, but he wondered whether it had the necessary means of action. It would seem that WHO was reticent about assuming that role.

63. Mr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization), referring to the observations by the delegation of the Republic of Korea, said that the pesticide industry was, of course, actively involved in research into a product which could usefully replace DDT in the campaign against malaria. Unfortunately, it might be some time before valid results could be expected. Researchers were placing their hopes rather on genetic engineering and the development of non-malaria-carrying strains, but research of that type would still take years.

64. There was no doubting the willingness of WHO to take part in the development and implementation of projects, particularly in regard to sanitation. But that willingness was not always turned into reality. The United Kingdom delegation was right to point out that differences in perspective among bodies of the United Nations system sometimes gave rise to frustrating results: irrigation projects, for example, might entail high health costs because the health problems encountered by the project personnel had been overlooked at the planning stage. Governments should be made aware of the human costs, which were not always duly taken into account.

65. It was true that the question of lead agency had not been clearly answered. There was undoubtedly complementarity of expertise between two or more agencies, WHO and UNICEF for example, which was clearly a source of tension. For its part, WHO would like to continue being the technical reference centre, with coordination handled by the countries themselves. Replying to the representative of France, who was concerned to know how United Nations agencies proceeded when local infrastructure was weak, he said that WHO would then look at all the possible options—other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the ministries of the countries involved.

66. The United States and Australian delegations had expressed regret at seeing no precise action plans or timetables. In fact, there were numerous action plans and timetables, which would be more clearly outlined in the Secretary-General's next relevant report, particularly since the Council needed to be given information not only on malaria or cholera but on all diseases having an impact on development.

67. Replying to the representative of Benin, he said that it would certainly be at least another 10 years before a reliable anti-malaria vaccine could be made available. It went without saying that WHO was closely following all developments in that field of research. Certain serious or unusual forms of malaria were indeed currently being observed in some parts of the world, where they were a consequence of urbanization; they stemmed from loss of immunity among adults, who contracted forms of malaria hitherto observed only in children. But those forms of malaria were by no means to be confused with forms of AIDS.

68. Mr. GRAISSE (United Nations Development Programme), replying to the representative of Germany, said that UNDP, following the guidelines applicable to field activities, systematically consulted WHO on all water management projects.

69. Replying to the representative of France, he said that UNDP sought methodically to strengthen national capacities; there were grounds for hope that countries' strategies would increasingly make it possible to integrate action by all United Nations bodies.

70. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund), replying to the representative of Bangladesh, observed that the Secretary-General was not suggesting that the lead agency task should be entrusted to one and the same institution; the situation varied according to the country, and the activities of the various United Nations bodies could be coordinated, depending on the case, by UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank or WHO.

71. Mr. SARN (United States of America) inquired how the consensus resulting from the discussion was to be recorded and who would list the various points.

72. Mrs. KAYALI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in her view, it was for delegations to formulate the points for concluding observations.

73. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council, in its decision 1993/205, had decided to formulate agreed conclusions at the end of the discussion. In order to simplify the Council's tasks, he suggested that he might submit to it an informal preliminary draft of agreed conclusions, to be amended in the light of observations and proposals by Council members.

74. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) agreed that it would be desirable to prepare the relevant conclusions on the basis of a text by the President. There seemed no need to indulge in the debate to which draft resolutions presented by groups customarily gave rise.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

23rd meeting

Tuesday, 6 July 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.23

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued*):

(*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (*continued*)

1. Mr. SINGH (India) said that India advocated vigorous action to implement the Global Malaria Control Strategy, adopted in 1992 by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria in Amsterdam. It was for the United Nations and other agencies concerned to ensure a coordinated follow-up.

2. There were four important areas in malaria control where resources could be effectively invested: intensification of research, primarily because of increasing resistance of vectors to insecticides and of parasites to conventional drugs; mobilization of international assistance to deal with malaria in countries where it was endemic, which would automatically strengthen coordination and monitoring mechanisms; improvement of delivery systems, including both expansion and qualitative improvement; and the setting-up or identification of a central mechanism or organization, at both the international and country level, to implement, coordinate and review progress. Such a mechanism was essential to avoid duplication or wastage.

3. On the issue of diarrhoeal diseases, he said resources and coordination were vital in the long term for reduction of morbidity, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, primary education and education of mothers. In the short to medium term, Governments and international agencies should give priority to improving the case management of diarrhoea, an area that had not been adequately addressed and that required continued and expanded training of health personnel; educating mothers to enable them to take care of children suffering from diarrhoea at home with fluids, to continue feeding during diarrhoea and to recognize the early signs of dehydration; and ensuring widespread distribution and use of oral rehydration salts, which would require more resources to strengthen national programmes.

4. In all those areas, which were not only priority areas but would also provide the best possible return on investment, all decisions should be taken at the country level, in close consultation with United Nations bodies.

5. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) noted that malaria attacked groups of people who were often already the victims of war, drought and famine, namely the least developed and most disadvantaged population groups. However, the development of a new vaccine by a Colombian team gave some cause for optimism. According to tests conducted in several Latin American countries, there was an initial protection rate of 77 per cent for children under five years of age and 67 per cent for adults over 45 years of age, and the results with secondary episodes were even better. Colombia had therefore patented the vaccine with the World Health Organization, which would be in charge of completing its development, mass-producing it and distributing it to the population groups that needed it.

6. More generally, it was essential to strike a better balance between investment in development and investment in the struggle against malaria and diarrhoea, which in turn required better coordination among United Nations bodies. Research should not be limited to the development of vaccines and treatments, but should also cover socio-cultural factors that encouraged the transmission of such diseases or made it difficult to treat them. In that regard, an indispensable aspect of coordination was the systematic exchange of information among all the organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations, and the strengthening of the early warning mechanisms designed to prevent epidemics.

7. His delegation believed that progress would not really be possible unless coordination was also established with the Governments concerned and the competent national services. The idea of establishing national coordination bodies should be developed further, in order to attain "critical mass" in respect of national capacity, in particular prevention. For its part, the Colombian Government was fully committed to the campaign for the prevention and complete elimination of malaria and cholera.

8. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) noted that, among the diseases identified as requiring coordinated protective action, malaria and diarrhoeal diseases affected primarily the developing world. There were known prevention mechanisms, but, although the United Nations had been successful in eradicating and controlling some diseases, it seemed that with regard to malaria and diarrhoea, many problems still existed and in some respects they were becoming worse.

9. One difficulty was the imprecise definition of the roles of the various United Nations bodies: WHO, whose mandate was to coordinate health-related activities, could only fulfil it effectively if it had at its disposal all the resources that the world community devoted to that sector. However, many other organizations were active in the health sector, such as UNICEF, the World Bank, UNDP, etc. In practice, those organizations were in competition for resources from donors, and, what was even more serious, they competed within countries by proposing to Governments different and at times conflicting ways of solving health problems. His delegation believed that the time had come to reconsider the role of the various United Nations bodies and to reassess their mandate within the system, since it was only by coordinating their activities that they could achieve the necessary efficiency in fighting malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

10. WHO should be fully responsible for epidemiological diagnosis, planning and the evaluation of measures leading to the eradication and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The corresponding activities performed by other agencies, together with the funds allocated to them, should be entrusted to WHO as the executing agency. It should also be responsible for setting standards for environmental measures, water supply and food quality control.

11. Mr. QUAUNINE (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh was particularly interested in the intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases because those diseases, especially cholera, were endemic in Bangladesh. Malaria research was faced with serious difficulties in Bangladesh, owing to the shortage of external resources, but the diarrhoeal research centre in Dhaka had become one of the world's finest and was known for having developed new oral rehydration salts.

12. A number of forums had expressed the need for coordination among the various United Nations bodies, in particular the General Assembly in resolution 47/199, and no agency had denied the importance of coordination. Since every United Nations agency had its own mandate and competence, the concept of a "sole lead agency" appeared to be impractical, and a preferable solution might be the idea of "complementarity" as proposed by UNICEF. Nevertheless, one agency would have to assume a leadership role up to a certain point, as WHO had been doing for tropical disease research programmes with the World Bank and UNDP. Since it appeared to be scientifically possible to rid the world of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, it would be deeply regrettable not to be able to take advantage of scientific progress or the sizeable resources of the donor countries because of a lack of coordination.

13. Like the representative of the United States, he regretted that the Secretary-General's recommendations did not include a specific plan, time-frame or responsible agency. On the other hand, problems of country-level and community-level coordination were clearly pointed out, and Bangladesh, whose Government was giving high priority to those types of problems, urged donor countries, specialized agencies and international financial institutions to focus attention on them. A sound coordination mechanism at the national level was essential, and without it there was no point in spending time and energy on international coordination.

14. Mr. PEREZ DEL SOLAR (Peru) said that the economic crisis that had been affecting Peru for several years had forced his Government to adopt an economic stabilization and structural adjustment programme and a welfare programme, which had received support from the international community and the international financial institutions.

15. Peru also had to cope with terrorism, which in the past 12 years had caused the deaths of approximately 25,000 persons and prevented many other citizens from effectively exercising their rights.

16. Those circumstances explained why the health situation in Peru was deplorable. However, as its health budget showed, the Peruvian Government was not remaining inactive. Peru was currently engaged in a process of transition from the traditional concept of "health expenditures" to that of "investments in the health sector". Health could in fact become the driving force of development.

17. In that context, the Peruvian Government emphasized that it was essential to link the efforts of national authorities to those of the international community. Such cooperation had proved its worth during the cholera epidemic that had hit the country in 1991 and 1992. From the onset of the crisis, WHO had made considerable efforts to meet the specific needs identified by the Government, especially with regard to medicine, hospital infrastructures and medical supplies. In that connection, Peru wished again to express its gratitude to WHO for having launched an appeal for international health assistance. As a result of that appeal, Peru had received medicine and supplies amounting to over $6 million.

18. The cholera epidemic had had repercussions not only on public health, but also in the economic sphere. Restrictive trade measures had had a negative impact on Peruvian exports. There had been exemplary coordination with WHO: in particular, WHO had issued two press releases explaining that the risk of cholera transmission through imported food was virtually nonexistent.

19. His delegation felt that the outstanding form of coordination that had developed in the case of the cholera epidemic should be continued through international cooperation aimed at preventing such crises. That cooperation might take the form of financial assistance for the hiring and training of health engineers and an intensification of technical and financial cooperation with the National Health Institute, for the purpose of establishing a network of emergency laboratories and developing an epidemiological monitoring mechanism.

20. Mr. DORJI (Bhutan) said that the report of the Secretary-General (E/1993/68) and the Global Malaria Control Strategy adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Malaria organized by WHO in Amsterdam in 1992 provided a useful introduction to the item before the Council. Sadly, it seemed that no technical or medical breakthroughs in combating both malaria and cholera were likely for years to come. It was also alarming to note that the diseases were resistant to treatment with existing drugs.

21. Bhutan believed that it was essential to put the victims in the centre of any strategy. That would involve creating educational materials that were adapted to local settings, including religious, cultural and other factors. If those affected by diseases were better informed, they would be able to take better care of themselves. The success in dealing with the outbreak of cholera in Peru had been largely due to the effort invested in informing the community affected. In that connection, his delegation supposed that UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UNDP and others had already given close study to the use of appropriate teaching aids and media and had extensive experience in the field. In any event, Bhutan believed that that aspect of the fight against the two diseases had not received enough attention in the discussion.

22. Mrs. ASHIPALA (Observer for Namibia), noting that the Secretary-General referred to the risks of malaria epidemics in Namibia, said that in 1990-1991 there had been 300 deaths from malaria in the northern part of the country. Most significant was the fact that that tragedy had struck the rural areas, where the health infrastructures were most lacking. If the population groups in question had been better informed about malaria and the ways of preventing it and controlling its effects, many of those deaths could certainly have been avoided.

23. Namibia fully endorsed the Global Malaria Control Strategy, adopted in Amsterdam in 1992 by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria. In its view, however, that would not be sufficient. Educational activities at the community level should be reinforced, so that the people at risk might learn what they could do to help themselves. The countries affected should also conduct systematic exchanges of information, and not simply establish contacts between ministers of health: the non-governmental organizations and even the private sector should also participate in that endeavour. Finally, more substantial financing should be provided if the terrible disease of malaria was to be overcome in Africa.

24. Namibia considered the information provided by the Secretary-General on the cooperation that was taking place among various United Nations agencies, especially WHO and UNICEF, to be very encouraging. It was an example of the positive attitude that would guarantee the effectiveness of the world anti-malaria campaign.

25. Mr. RIMDAP (Nigeria) said that, while he shared the Secretary-General's view that the primary responsibility for disease prevention and control activities lay with national authorities, substantial resources must also be made available for technical assistance, so that Governments could set up adequate medical infrastructures and train the required personnel. Substantially increased resources should be given to the lead agency, WHO, tostrengthen national efforts. In that connection, his delegation hoped that the Global Malaria Control Strategy would be implemented vigorously in order to conquer the disease.

26. As the Secretary-General's report showed, cholera and malaria were especially lethal in Africa because they were associated with poverty, attacking the most vulnerable groups of society. That factor had been aggravated by uncontrolled structural adjustment programmes. In fact, acknowledging that malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, were prevalent in poor societies meant acknowledging that their eradication involved the elimination of poverty itself.

27. Nigeria also believed that early warning systems should not be relaxed as soon as epidemics were over. In Nigeria, for example, after the cholera epidemic had been successfully contained in the 1970s, the disease had returned in 1991 and 1992. Finally, Nigeria appealed to the donor community to use local personnel, so far as possible, in the provision of technical assistance to Governments.

28. Mr. VRATUSA (International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries) described the activities of the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries, whose headquarters were in Ljubljana. It was an intergovernmental centre that also concerned itself with private and cooperative enterprises, responding to international developments and the needs of developing countries. It had established fruitful cooperation with multilateral United Nations agencies and other national and international research institutions. In the 1990s, it was concentrating on the restructuring of national economies and privatization in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on public enterprise reform based on performance effectiveness, and on private and public sector interaction. During the academic year 1989-1990, the Center had launched an international MBA programme for executives in management and administration. It was also preparing a course on integrated ocean and environment management. In conclusion, he referred members to an informal document distributed in the meeting room, in which the Center's functions and projects were described in detail.

29. Mr. VAN CRAEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, noted that the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO devoted a relatively modest proportion of their budgets to combating diarrhoeal diseases and malaria. He wondered whether that was due to the fact that action was not very costly and much could be done with scant resources or, on the contrary, that the resources available were so plentiful that none of the three agencies had to make a particular effort to combat those diseases?

30. The Secretary-General's recommendations and conclusions on coordination did not establish priorities in public health and hygiene programmes and community health education. How did UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and the other participating parties intend to correct that omission?

31. Mr. PENNANEACH (Togo) said that the reason why 1 million people, 90 per cent of whom were Africans, died of malaria every year was that the disease was again gaining ground owing to the fact that the anopheles mosquito was becoming more and more resistant to insecticides. He pointed out that in Africa, diarrhoeal diseases and malaria killed more people than AIDS and cancer, which were at the centre of international concern.

32. In his report (E/1993/68), the Secretary-General put forward several recommendations that should improve coordination of action at the world and regional levels, which were aimed in particular at balancing investments so as to ensure that development would be both sound and durable. From that standpoint, the question arose whether, at the practical level, UNICEF, WHO and UNDP intended to harmonize their positions and give effect to those recommendations.

33. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said he wondered about the direct cost of malaria in Africa, which according to the Secretary-General was in the vicinity of $2 per case. Even in the simplest cases, malaria treatment was evaluated at $20 or $30, at least in western Africa. How had the figure indicated by the Secretary-General been calculated?

34. If the Colombian vaccine was approved by WHO, its cost must be maintained at the lowest possible level, since malaria affected the poorest strata of the population. WHO had managed to eradicate smallpox from the face of the earth, because the smallpox vaccine had been readily available to all, often even free. Would the same be done for the malaria vaccine?

35. Mr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization), replying to the Belgian representative, said that the funds which the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO earmarked for combating diarrhoeal diseases and malaria were quite clearly insufficient. All three agencies' activities would be much more effective if more substantial resources were available to them. For WHO at least, the problem was where to obtain those extra funds: its large-scale vaccination programme was not yet fully funded and tuberculosis had become a world problem, not to mention AIDS, cancer and other diseases. WHO believed that it had established equitable proportions among all those activities.

36. Consideration should also be given to financing of more general programmes, for example in sanitation and education, which also helped to combat the diseases in question. WHO was in the process of reviewing its entire budgetary system and its order of priorities. That would be done under the supervision of the member States, which could make adjustments in WHO's range of programmes if they so desired.

37. The representative of Togo had asked what the agencies concerned intended to do to give effect to the Secretary-General's recommendations. For its part, WHO intended to continue its cooperation with its various partners, on the basis of the Global Malaria Control Strategy adopted in Amsterdam in 1992. That coordination would set an example for the other agencies.

38. The delegation of Benin had asked about the cost of malaria treatment in Africa. The figure given by the Secretary-General referred to the simplest cases, where the patient was given some chloroquine tablets and sent home. When hospitalization was involved, treatment was clearly more costly.

39. WHO was obviously quite interested in developing the Colombian vaccine, but it had learned from experience to temper its enthusiasm, as the subsequent course of events was all too often disappointing. The advantage of the vaccine was that it might be possible to manufacture it at very low cost and therefore to make it available on a worldwide scale. In the expectation of low-cost production, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF had launched a children's vaccination programme, with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation.

40. Mr. HADDAD (World Bank) noted that the figures given by the Secretary-General in the report under review (E/1993/68) covered only one year, and that situations changed considerably from one year to the next. A better idea of the costs of combating diarrhoeal diseases and malaria could be obtained if a longer period were considered. In addition, the figures referred to very specific and selective activities, whereas broader programmes (building health centres, for example) helped to combat those diseases without necessarily appearing in the statistics.

41. The World Bank merely lent money to Governments that requested it; it was therefore not in a position to control the main areas of activity in which that money was spent. The Bank simply noted that loan requests were increasing most rapidly in the health sector; in other words, countries were attaching more and more importance to health. The total budget for the sector should soon reach $1 billion at the World Bank.

42. With regard to coordination of the competent agencies' activities, he said a combined use of resources from such a variety of sources was not easy. The World Bank mobilized its resources from private financial circles and placed them at Governments' disposal in the form of loans. That was why it was impossible for it to merge them with, for example, the resources of UNICEF. In fact that was not a disadvantage for the countries in question, since it meant that they could benefit from a number of different perspectives and objectives. Similarly, it was impossible to give WHO exclusivity with regard to execution. When the World Bank granted a Government a loan, it was for the Government to choose the executing agency for the programme envisaged, whether that was WHO or some other agency.

43. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund), replying in particular to the remarks of the representative of Belgium on the question of resources, said that certain figures might be confusing. For example, in the UNICEF budget expenditures, the item entitled "oral rehydration therapy" did not represent the total amount of the Fund's work in that sector, since a large number of activities were included in more general programmes. In addition, it was difficult to establish a direct link between the amount of expenditure allocated to a particular activity and the importance attached to that activity. Certain operations were given priority precisely because they were less costly than others: although they might appear to be modest in dollar terms, they involved a considerable workload and required a deep commitment from managerial staff and field officers.

44. The figures were also revealing since they showed a decrease in donors' contributions. That trend, which had been predicted, might in fact be more marked than had been expected.

45. In a more general context, the question was where to obtain funding to combat malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. The budgets of WHO, UNICEF and UNDP were not sufficient and could only play a limited catalytic role. In the face of a challenge that would have to be met collectively, a far-reaching restructuring of priorities was essential at the international and national levels, in both public development assistance and national budgets, with a view to allocating at least 20 per cent of resources to basic human needs. Linkage would have to be established with the priorities set as part of the adjustment processes and related budgetary discussions. Mobilization of efforts at the community level was also essential. In the final analysis, international and national resources should be used to strengthen community capacities so as to achieve the desired goals.

46. Mr. BOUTRIF (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO was greatly concerned with coordination in its areas of competence relating to combating malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. In the sphere of food safety, for example, it had been cooperating with WHO for several years—because of the close links between nutrition and health—in particular, in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Codex Alimentarius was a joint programme for developing standards for quality and purity of food products which, as everyone knew, were an important vector of diarrhoeal diseases.

47. There were also joint committees of experts, for example on food additives and contaminants, and on pesticide residues. Those mechanisms were fully operational, but could be strengthened at the international and regional levels with a view to focusing on the problems involved in the diseases in question.

48. On the subject of irrigation water, referred to by the German delegation, he said that FAO, together with WHO and UNEP, was taking part in the work of the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management of Vector Control, which provided a good basis for increased coordination in that field at the international level. FAO was prepared to step up that type of cooperation, in particular with the agencies playing a leading role in that area, especially WHO.

49. Mr. BLAIN (United Nations Development Programme) noted that several delegations, in particular those of Belgium, Benin and Togo, had raised the question of allocation of resources and training. Because of the attention his organization gave to human development and the devastating effects on it of the diseases under consideration, UNDP devoted substantial efforts to that problem in the activities it supported or financed. It was an active partner of WHO, the World Bank and UNICEF in their activities to contain those diseases.

50. UNDP contributed to the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and gave considerable support to the anti-diarrhoeal diseases programme. Under its own national, regional and global programmes, UNDP supported efforts at overcoming the problems caused by malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. Although a quantitative evaluation was difficult, UNDP's assistance in strengthening national capacities and institutional mechanisms was substantial.

51. Mr. HUMMON (United States of America) expressed surprise at the representative of the World Bank's statement that WHO could not be the sole executing agency since it was for the beneficiary countries to set priorities. National plans were clearly essential, but it should be borne in mind that cooperation between United Nations bodies and the World Bank was needed to achieve optimal coordination in executing projects and allocating resources, in order to provide the countries in question with the most effective plans possible.

52. Mr. HADDAD (World Bank) explained that he had been referring to the question whether WHO could be the permanent executing agent for the projects financed by his organization: he had not been speaking about policy and planning coordination. The Articles of Agreement of the World Bank specified that when the Bank granted a country a loan, it was for the country

concerned to decide which agency would be the executing agency. In sectoral work, project preparation and cooperation with countries, the Bank acknowledged WHO's role as a technical agency and wished to strengthen coordination with it.

53. Mrs. SIMMONDS (United Kingdom) noted that much of the debate had dealt with the question of resources, malaria-related costs, competing pressures on the limited resources available and the need to establish priorities. That clearly showed how essential it was to make better use of existing resources, in particular through effective coordination.

54. Her delegation had already asked whether WHO or other agencies had any specific recommendations to make on how to overcome problems in that area, whether they arose because of differing viewpoints among the various institutions or confusion surrounding the role of the executing agent. It was clear from the statement by the representative of WHO that WHO intended to leave the coordination of efforts by the United Nations system to the countries concerned. In her delegation's view, although coordination by Governments was crucial, United Nations bodies should agree on what they could offer Governments and how they would provide assistance to them. She would therefore like to know what WHO and the other agencies intended to do in that respect.

55. Mr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization) stressed that the report before the Council (E/1993/68) had been prepared jointly by the organizations concerned, so that they agreed on the recommendations it contained. It was for the Council to provide other guidelines if necessary.

56. The activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system would continue to be based on the complementary advantages they possessed. Specific plans of action might emerge from the consultations they planned to hold later on. For the staff members of the organizations concerned to cooperate closely with one another, a psychological evolution was necessary. The preparation of the report before the Council had been a first step in that direction.

57. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said that it was more important to strengthen cooperation between his organization and WHO, for example, than to establish new vertical coordination mechanisms. The links between the two organizations were already quite close, in particular with regard to the campaign against diarrhoeal diseases. At the intergovernmental level, a joint committee of their respective governing boards defined their policies in the health sector and issued joint instructions in that area. There was also an inter-secretariat mechanism in operation at all levels, through which the instructions issued by Governments could give rise to coordinated joint actions.

58. There were also several arrangements for improving coordination at the country level. The guidelines for strengthening the system of resident coordinators provided for the establishment not only of notes on national strategy, but also of coordination committees. Lastly, for coordination with bodies outside the United Nations system, such as bilateral aid sources and non-governmental organizations, there were the advisory groups sponsored by the World Bank and the UNDP round tables. Both could be adapted to enable Governments and all international backers to focus on specific problems.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

24th meeting

Wednesday, 7 July 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)
later: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.24

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly, in resolution 47/199, had, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to promote an early agreement on a common interpretation of the programme approach and of national execution to be applied by the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council. The General Assembly had also stressed the need for the Council to examine the operational activities of the United

Nations system with a view to ensuring implementation of the resolution and making recommendations thereon.

2. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), introducing the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 (E/1993/73), said that the world was facing new challenges today and it would be difficult for the Council to maintain its leadership role in the management of the operational activities of the United Nations system if the restructuring exercise, currently at an impasse, was not, as the Secretary-General hoped, put back on track before the next session of the General Assembly. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, reforms of the intergovernmental system were both necessary and overdue. Furthermore, restructuring should involve a renewed commitment by all donors to a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries. It was essential for the 1993 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities to yield decidedly more positive results than the 1992 Conference. The developing countries had ever increasing and varied requirements, which the United Nations system field structure was well placed to satisfy.

3. The United Nations system was taking energetic steps to implement all the provisions of resolution 47/199. With regard to programme development and implementation, the Secretary-General pointed out that work on the common interpretation of the programme approach and of national execution had been completed within the framework of CCPOQ and ACC. As to the country strategy notes, the first results of that initiative showed that it enabled the United Nations system to ensure a more coherent response to the plans and priorities of developing countries. The principles governing the preparation of those notes were stated in annex II to the Secretary-General's report. The Joint Consultative Group on Policies hoped to achieve the harmonization and adaptation of programming cycles to national budget cycles, strategies and plans within the coming two years.

4. Under the heading of programme support, the Secretary-General raised the problems of decentralization, simplification and harmonization of procedures, evaluation and monitoring, common premises and training. The Secretariat would begin work as soon as possible on a common United Nations system-wide manual on procedures relating to programme-component and project formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The report also described the progress made in the training sector.

5. The report referred to the consultations being held on the strengthening of the resident coordinator system. The issues of coordination mechanisms, technical and financial support, the implementation of ACC guidelines, recruitment procedures and their transparency and the division of labour among various sectors of the United Nations system were being given careful consideration and he hoped to be able to report some progress on them to the Council at its 1994 session.

6. Chapter VI of the report dealt with three major issues, namely, science and technology for development, on which the Council would have to take some decisions, human development and economic and social reforms. An overview of the work programme for the implementation of resolution 47/199 was provided in annex I of the report. The concern for comprehensive management and for an integrated concept of cooperation for development, on which resolution 47/199 was based, had also guided the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General. He hoped that that concern, which was shared by the participants in the high-level meetings of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and the members of CCPOQ, would lead to greater effectiveness and coherence at the country level.

7. Ms. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme), introducing the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (E/1993/91), said that 1992 had been a particularly challenging year for WFP because of the substantial increase in the need for humanitarian assistance and pressures on development programmes. WFP had provided more food and relief than ever. Its greatest efforts had been made in southern Africa and Somalia, but Angola, Liberia, Sudan, the former Yugoslavia and many other countries had also received substantial food deliveries. The situation in Somalia appeared to have become more stable and, following the peace agreement, the situation in Mozambique was relatively promising.

8. Although it had not been much publicized, the drought in southern Africa had required more food than any other emergency. It was estimated that over 18 million people were threatened with starvation, but, as a result of speedy and coordinated action by the countries of the region and the international community, famine had been avoided. WFP had been designated coordinator by the United Nations and had worked jointly with the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and with all the appropriate United Nations agencies to transport the necessary supplies through the region to the persons affected.

9. Expenditure on emergency projects had totalled $1.2 billion in 1992. One reason for the increase had been the new cooperation agreement with UNHCR, under which WFP undertook to provide food for refugee operations.

10. WFP had been able to allocate only $420 million to development projects in 1992. However, effective development programmes were critically important if poverty was to be eradicated and if countries were to become self-sufficient. Those programmes also constituted the basis for the success of WFP's emergency assistance activities. Because WFP always had a large volume of food supplies in transit to development projects, they

could be "diverted" to any emergency activity at any time.

11. In 1992, two important projects had been added to WFP's range of development activities: the Disaster Mitigation and Rehabilitation Programme for Africa and the comprehensive review of the development programmes undertaken so far. An important point was that WFP's 1992 budget had been only about $100 million.

12. At present, individual WFP projects required the approval of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, but it was planning to adopt the programme approach. WFP was currently working to develop improved country strategy outlines, which were the framework for WFP country activities. Moreover, after participating actively in the deliberations of CCPOQ, which had developed guidelines for resident coordinators on the preparation of country strategy notes, the WFP Executive Director had requested all Directors of Operations to cooperate, under the leadership of the resident coordinators, with Governments interested in drawing up country strategy notes. The latter would be forwarded to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and their relationship with the country strategy outlines would be reviewed.

13. To comply with General Assembly resolution 47/199, WFP was planning to strengthen the measures it was already taking to help Governments improve their capabilities in food handling, storage, logistics and accountability. As to humanitarian assistance, special logistics operations were sometimes set up, but efforts were made to hand over to Governments as soon as feasible.

14. With regard to the selection of resident coordinators, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes had agreed that particular attention should be paid to the quality and development expertise of candidates and that posts should be open to persons from all United Nations agencies. The resident coordinator should also be the representative of the Secretary-General and, in that capacity, he could not be in charge of another programme.

15. Mr. JOLLY (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that the Executive Board of UNICEF, which had met from 26 April to 7 May 1993, had reviewed the progress made in achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children. So far, over 80 countries had prepared national programmes of action to achieve those goals and those efforts had, in some cases, resulted in significant progress for children. There had, for example, been an increase in the use of oral rehydration therapy, which had saved millions of lives a year. In addition, the Executive Board had approved 24 country programmes that were all linked to the goals of the World Summit and were aimed at supporting national programmes of action prepared in cooperation with other United Nations agencies. In any event, it could be said that the World Summit had contributed directly to a considerable improvement in the conditions of millions of children around the world. At a time of widespread doubt about the effectiveness of the United Nations, he invited the members of the Economic and Social Council to read the UNICEF report carefully because of the many positive and encouraging developments it described. The report of the Executive Board of UNICEF (E/1993/34) also referred to the priority efforts being made for Africa, recent efforts in central and eastern Europe and in the newly independent States, structural adjustment in Latin America, education, women and the girl child, UNICEF cooperation with UNFPA in the area of family planning and the question of strengthening national capacities.

16. The Executive Board had also discussed the implementation of resolution 47/199. Broadly speaking, the Board felt that CCPOQ had done some excellent work on the establishment of policy guidelines for the resident coordinator system and for the country strategy notes. The latter would constitute the reference framework that would make it possible better to adapt programmes to the priorities set by Governments and to coordinate the programmes of the different organizations. UNICEF was pleased that the national approach, which it had defended for a long time, had been adopted as the basis for the programme approach.

17. UNICEF was also very much in favour of the resident coordinator system, which allowed activities within the United Nations system at the country level to be coordinated in such a way that the efficiency and impartiality of the various agencies were protected. Admittedly, the system had not yet yielded all the results that might have been expected and, in many countries, meetings on the substantive issues had not been held regularly enough, but there had been progress in a number of other areas. For example, plans had been submitted by the organizations belonging to the Joint Consultative Group on Policies to their lead agencies in order to harmonize the different programming cycles.

18. Lastly, the Deputy Executive Director felt that the United Nations agencies had given all possible guarantees of their desire for coordination. The matter had been discussed by the members of the Economic and Social Council for two days. However, the inadequate resources made available for humanitarian activities did not seem to be of much interest to the Council. Similarly, the lack of proportion between the resources made available for armed peace-keeping operations and those allocated to humanitarian assistance had not been discussed at all. Those were not easy questions, but the Council was duty bound to consider real economic and social problems in order to enable United Nations agencies to become genuine instruments of action.

19. Mr. GRAISSE (United Nations Development Programme) introduced the extract from the report of the UNDP Governing Council on its organizational meeting for 1993, its special session and its fortieth session (E/1993/L.24).

20. He drew the attention of the Council to certain decisions of the Governing Council which had a particular impact on the operational activities of the United Nations development system. In decision 93/11 on humanitarian programmes, the Governing Council had reaffirmed the need to develop an operational framework under the overall authority of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and to ensure that resident coordinators were in a position to execute their emergency coordination functions effectively. In decision 93/2, the Governing Council had recalled that, under the provisions of Agenda 21, UNDP was called upon to play a leading role in building national capacities for sustainable development and for the implementation of Agenda 21 and had approved the decision of the Administrator to launch Capacity 21. In decision 93/12, it had refined its guidance to the Administrator on the implementation of Capacity 21. In decision 93/3, it had approved the allocation of indicative planning figures to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Tajikistan. In decision 93/22, it had agreed to do the same for Eritrea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Altogether, the Governing Council had approved 27 country programmes and 15 extensions (decision 93/20). In decision 93/18 on the least developed countries, the Governing Council had requested the Administrator to strengthen the overall capacity of UNDP to deal with the needs of those countries and, in decision 93/17, it had requested him to contribute fully to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In decision 93/30, it had encouraged the Department for Development Support and Management Services to help strengthen national capacities for programme management and project execution and implementation, stressing further the importance of the clarification of the division of labour between that Department and other United Nations organs dealing with technical cooperation, especially UNDP. In decision 93/31, the Governing Council had called on the United Nations Development Fund for Women to continue its active support to UNDP and the other members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies in gender-related programme areas. In decision 93/33 on the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian office, it had reconfirmed its support for the UNDP-UNSO/UNEP joint venture. In decision 93/39, the Governing Council had requested the Administrator to facilitate the implementation of certain decisions of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. In decision 93/42, it had accepted the modalities for the transfer of the Office for Project Services, which would become a semi-autonomous entity located in the Department for Development Support and Management Services. Lastly, it had approved the budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium, which incorporated a reduction of some $42 million compared with the 1992-1993 budget (decision 93/35).

21. In decision 93/16, the Governing Council had also requested the Administrator to strengthen further the efforts of UNDP to implement General Assembly resolution 47/199 and to provide feedback on the implementation of the resolution, especially at the field level. Following the development of a common interpretation of the programme approach to be used in the entire United Nations system, UNDP, in consultation with Governments and agencies, had drawn up guiding principles that were being issued for use by its field offices. With regard to the system of resident representatives and resident coordinators, UNDP had explored, with its partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, ways of widening the pool of candidates for those posts. With its partners, moreover, it had reached agreement on a common interpretation of national execution and was in the process of revising its own operational guidelines and actively promoting national execution as the norm for activities funded by the programme. Progress had also been made on the issue of common premises and in the implementation of other provisions of resolution 47/199 relating to human development, economic and social reform and training.

22. The Deputy Executive Director drew the Council's attention to the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its eighth session (DP/1993/L.9) and to the report of the UNDP Administrator on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (E/1993/72).

23. He reiterated the concern expressed by the Administrator about the collapse of the negotiations on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Its implications were all the more serious as the financial resources of the system were already very limited.

Mr. SOMAVÍA, President, took the Chair.

24. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) said that the overriding concern of UNFPA was that its work should correspond exactly to the needs of the peoples and countries it served by ensuring that the best means were chosen and that needs were identified by the persons concerned. He was pleased to report that many positive achievements had taken place, although the inadequacy of resources was a major constraint for developing countries seeking to solve their demographic problems. As the Executive Director of UNFPA had said (18th meeting), the Nordic proposal on reforms of United Nations operational activities was an opportunity that should be seized by the world community.

25. At its fortieth session, the UNDP Governing Council had made many recommendations concerning UNFPA. It had approved 15 country programmes, taken note of the report of the Executive Director on the priority-country system (DP/1993/33) and had reaffirmed the continued use of existing criteria and their threshold levels. It had recognized that expenditure should reflect the actual needs of recipient countries and welcomed the emphasis that had been placed on mater-

nity and child health and on family planning and had called on UNFPA to strengthen further its international economic cooperation activities. It had taken note of the UNFPA strategy in sub-Saharan Africa and had welcomed the progress made in the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in developing countries. It had taken note of the collaboration established between UNFPA and the World Bank and the financial arrangements adopted for support costs.

26. In considering the report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, the Governing Council had said that experience of UNFPA in programme review and strategy development placed it in a position to contribute to the formulation of country strategy notes and the development of a common programme approach. The new support-cost arrangements were, in its view, an integral component of strategic programming and should contribute to national execution and decentralization at the country level. The Governing Council had also welcomed the efforts of UNFPA, working through the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, to harmonize programming cycles and adapt them to national development plans.

27. Many other key components of resolution 47/199, such as the programme approach and the coordination and harmonization of procedures and programming cycles, were areas in which UNFPA had been trying to make progress for several years. UNFPA also continued to support the implementation of other components of the resolution such as national execution, national capacity-building, decentralization of programme development and delegation of authority, coordination of activities both within and outside the United Nations system, streamlining and harmonization of rules and regulations, procedures and programming cycles and, lastly, common premises.

28. The Executive Director had recently written to all UNFPA representatives and country directors urging them to cooperate actively in the process of developing country strategy notes in countries which had opted for that system.

29. Another key component of resolution 47/199 was the resident coordinator system, which UNFPA fully supported because, in its view, there should be a single United Nations representation per country. The resident coordinator should represent the entire system, under the administrative responsibility of UNDP, and ensure the overall coordination of United Nations activities. However, UNFPA felt that the time had come to strengthen the identity and authority of UNFPA country directors in order to enhance the effectiveness of its programmes.

30. Population issues were now at the forefront of the development agenda, whether in connection with sustainable development, Agenda 21, poverty eradication or migrations. The level of resources for dealing with those problems was very inadequate. The United Nations system, including UNFPA, and donor countries were working together at the field level to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and thus enable them to take up their development challenges. However, the inadequacy of resources was still the major constraint.

31. Mr. VAN CRAEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, recalled that they had supported a draft resolution on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/47/L.58). In a spirit of compromise, they had agreed to two amendments to a text which had been drafted after lengthy negotiations. They deeply regretted that the consideration of that draft resolution had been postponed when it had come up for discussion in the General Assembly, on 25 June 1993 in New York. Apparently, most Member States were not prepared to improve the effectiveness of the development assistance system. The European Community nevertheless continued to support the Secretary-General in his restructuring plans so that the Economic and Social Council could perform its function of managing the economic and social sector of the United Nations.

32. Six months had elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/199 and, in the meantime, meetings had been held of ACC, the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and the Governing Councils of UNICEF and UNDP. He listed some of the measures already in force, of which the European Community had taken note.

33. Many questions had, however, still not been answered. It was true that little time had been spent on the implementation of the resolution and that the institutional and operational environment in which it had to be applied was very complex. It was nevertheless an instrument which was designed to improve and strengthen the coordination of operational activities and which should not in any circumstances be regarded as another constraint on the system.

34. More positive follow-up action on resolution 47/199 could have been taken in several areas. In the first place, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was not doing enough in its role of leader and lead agency. The division in charge of operational activities was still understaffed and consideration might be given to the possibility of assigning it staff from other United Nations agencies. With regard to the decentralization that had been called for, the member States of the Community recalled that policy should continue to be made at the central level. The agencies concerned, especially UNDP, should assume greater responsibility for field-level coordination. Every agency, fund and programme should contribute, to the best of its ability, to the implementation of the resolution. The resident coordinators should take more initiatives along those lines and, for example, make practical proposals on matters such as country strategy notes, field-level decentralization and common premises.

35. The community appealed to recipient countries to contribute to the speedy implementation of resolution 47/199. Their cooperation was essential in virtually every area dealt with in the resolution and the implementation of its provisions was in their interest.

36. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that the reforms called for in General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 were far from complete. Admittedly, both resolutions were complex and asked a great deal of a system with limited resources. However, it was not coordination so much as the lack of coordination that was costly. It had been only seven months since the adoption of resolution 47/199, but resolution 44/211 had been adopted three and a half years previously and resolution 32/197 dated from 1977.

37. For years now, Member States had been concerned and impatient about the lack of collaboration, inefficient programming and the lack of complementarity of the activities of United Nations agencies. They had, for example, asked for an appropriate management process with clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames. What progress had been made? Although a common interpretation of the programme approach had recently been developed, that process had already been under way in many countries. What results had that approach achieved? Had it made the system more coherent? Did it hinder or help the work of individual agencies? More importantly, did it help countries meet their development needs? How did it relate to the country strategy note?

38. In 1989, in its resolution 44/211, the General Assembly had asked the Secretariat to study the concept of a document containing the United Nations system's integrated operational response, at the country level, to the national programme framework. That document, which was supposed to give greater coherence to the programmes of United Nations agencies, was conceptually not very different from the country strategy notes called for in resolution 47/199.

39. Resolution 47/199 provided that country strategy notes should be formulated by "interested" Governments, but their formulation should be less a matter of interest than a matter of necessity. In any event, seven months after the adoption of resolution 47/199, there had been enough time to ascertain the number of "interested" countries. Why had they found the idea worth pursuing and what could be done to interest others?

40. The United States Government attached the greatest importance to the leadership role of the resident coordinator. It called on all the agencies taking part in the current discussion to make available their most talented staff for those posts, for the enormous demands being made of the system called for the best and the brightest. However, even the most talented leader would have difficulties if his or her colleagues were not committed to working together, both in the field and at Headquarters. The system was working in a number of countries and the common feature of all those situations was the quality of the persons involved, at all levels.

41. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the current discussions were taking place against a very different background than what might have been hoped a few weeks earlier because the important process of the reform of United Nations development activities had been brought to a halt. For the Nordic countries, a strong United Nations in the political area should be complemented by a strong United Nations in the economic and social fields. There could be no lasting peace without a remedy for the growing economic and social inequalities in the world.

42. For the past several years, the Nordic countries had been making considerable efforts to submit constructive proposals for strengthening United Nations development activities through reforms relating to policy guidance, operational governance and the system of financing. At its 1992 session, the Council had initiated the process of reform at the political level and significant progress had been made in the months which had followed. It was thus with profound regret that the Nordic countries took note of the fact that no action had been taken on the draft resolution recently submitted to the General Assembly. The draft resolution had been the result of lengthy and delicate negotiations, in which all parties had made substantial concessions. The countries which had seen fit to break up the agreement should be aware that they bore a very heavy responsibility. In his view, the vote on the motion to postpone action meant that the majority of the members of the United Nations were not prepared to agree on the necessary changes that would have improved the efficiency of the United Nations development system. That situation could not but seriously affect the level of donor contributions for multilateral assistance and the ability of United Nations organizations to continue to mobilize resources in an increasingly competitive environment. The immediate effect was that the discussions on future financing modalities, which should have started at the next session of the General Assembly, would not take place.

43. When General Assembly resolution 47/199 had been adopted, the Nordic countries had regarded it, even though it did not meet all their concerns, as an expression of the common will to make the operational activities of the United Nations system more efficient. They therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's progress report on the implementation of that resolution (E/1993/73), even though the progress so far, six months after its adoption, was necessarily limited. Some elements of the report were particularly important. The Nordic countries found that the country strategy note could serve as a useful tool for ensuring a coherent approach by the United Nations system to development activities at the field level. They were also pleased that an agreement had been reached on a common interpretation of national execution and the programme approach, which would be helpful in ensuring well-coordinated United Nations as-

sistance that was better integrated into national development plans and in avoiding scattered projects.

44. The Nordic countries also attached importance to the enhancement of the role of the resident coordinator, who should be given the necessary authority to enable him to ensure that activities were carried out in accordance with national priorities and within the framework established by the country strategy note and the programme approach. In so doing, however, efforts should be made to avoid introducing a bureaucratic layer and to maintain the identity of the various funds and programmes. In the selection of resident coordinators, qualifications should be the deciding factor.

45. The action taken in respect of common premises should be intensified. The cost effectiveness of shared field representations should also be taken into account, given the problems of resource constraints on several United Nations agencies: it was self-evident that in the case of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, a unified approach should be adopted from the very start.

46. Mr. JAMALUDDIN (Bangladesh) said that the discussion on operational activities was all the more critical as the resources for the implementation of projects were becoming scarce, a tendency that was causing serious concern. With regard to the content of the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73), he stressed that more and more projects should be executed by the countries concerned, as that would strengthen their absorptive capacity. The role of resident coordinators could be made more effective if the right people were chosen and if they were given more authority.

47. In the matter of procurement and expert services, the local market should be used as much as possible. In Bangladesh, food could be procured locally for distribution by WFP, thus ensuring a fair price for growers and minimizing the cost of the Programme's operations. Local consultants selected on a competitive basis should receive the same remuneration as international consultants.

48. The spirit of Rio was weakening and there had been no substantive discussion on how to mobilize resources to implement Agenda 21.

49. With regard to technical cooperation among developing countries, priority should be given to the needs of the least developed countries. Because assistance was provided by different agencies, coordination among donor agencies with a view to streamlining was necessary. Support for that type of cooperation should not be given at the expense of assistance in respect of projects and commodities.

50. He regretted the problems caused by delay and indecision in the United Nations system. For example, the failure to appoint an Executive Director was hampering the operational activities of the International Trade Centre.

51. Mr. HIRAISHI (Japan) said that United Nations operational activities for development were facing financing problems, as well as pressure by a growing number of recipient countries on the United Nations to expand its activities and use a broader range of implementation modalities. In the case of financing, operational activities, the programmes of multilateral financing institutions and bilateral assistance, which were supposed to play complementary roles, were also competing with one another for limited resources. The United Nations should therefore make efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of its operations to prevent them from being marginalized in the process.

52. The Secretary-General's progress report (E/1993/73) offered a comprehensive overview which should bring about improvements in precisely that area. In that connection, his delegation was impressed with the work done by inter-agency mechanisms such as ACC, the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and their various subgroups and encouraged them to continue to adopt an integrated and systematic approach.

53. As far as the functioning of intergovernmental bodies was concerned, it was widely recognized that reform was necessary and that an entity was needed to discuss development issues and provide the United Nations system with guidance on policy. His delegation considered that the Council could be restructured in such a way that it would be able to discharge those functions. Its responsibilities and those of the General Assembly should be clearly defined and overlapping functions eliminated. To that end, the work of the General Assembly should be streamlined and provision should be made for a triennial review of operational activities so that the Assembly could provide the necessary major policy guidance, as it had done in its resolutions 44/211 and 47/199. The Council should assume responsibility for managing those activities and provide the executing agencies concerned with clear and coherent guidance on a yearly basis. In order to improve the management of United Nations agencies, his delegation suggested that each governing body should establish an inter-sessional mechanism to monitor the implementation of its decisions and to facilitate the dialogue between its executive administration and Member States.

54. In his delegation's view, extremely urgent reform was needed in field-level activities, to which the report rightly devoted a great deal of attention. The country strategy note could serve as a basis for the integration of the related activities of the recipient country and of the United Nations system, as well as for national execution. He therefore urged the recipient countries to adopt such a practice. For its part, the United Nations system should also pursue such measures as decentralization, harmonization and adaptation of programming cycles, as well as simplification of rules and procedures.

55. Lastly, it was essential that the resident coordinator system and field-level coordination mechanisms should be strengthened. In that connection, it was particularly

important not only to widen the pool of qualified development specialists eligible for recruitment, in order to ensure a better balance and a wider range of expertise, but also to make the selection process more transparent.

56. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that his delegation attached great importance to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and to the neutrality, objectivity and multilateralism which had always characterized them. Like many other delegations, it believed that the United Nations could protect its credibility only by strengthening its political, economic and social sectors in a systematic and complementary way and that the entire system would be damaged if any one of those components was weakened. The level of available resources was a source of frustration, especially in the light of the hopes raised by UNCED. The tendency was to reduce the financial resources allocated to operational activities for development and to international cooperation in general.

57. With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, he noted that it was an extension of resolution 44/211 and that many more practical measures could have been implemented in the meantime. The Secretary-General's report described measures that were under consideration or to be adopted, but none had been carried out so far. It was therefore not an adequate indicator of the progress made. While his delegation welcomed the fact that an agreement had been reached on the interpretation of the programme approach and of national execution, it thought that the modalities in question should already have been implemented. It noted with satisfaction that the representatives of the United Nations and related agencies at the national and regional levels had been informed of the provisions of resolution 47/199. That was a most helpful initiative because field offices were sometimes ignorant of the content of the resolutions and were aware only of the decisions adopted by the governing bodies to which they belonged.

58. More would have to be done about the recruitment base for the resident coordinators. That appeared to be a sensitive issue, but the implementation of the relevant provisions of resolution 47/199 was essential in order to increase the pool of candidates for those posts and to make the selection process more transparent to enable experts with different profiles to be chosen according to country.

59. He also pointed out that field offices had been assigned additional responsibilities because of the importance attached to the multidisciplinary approach and to support at the field level. However, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, financial resources and experts were still lacking. The Moroccan delegation would have liked to know what the reaction of recipient countries had been to the idea of drafting a country strategy note because, on that point, the report did not say how many countries were in fact interested or what problems might have been encountered.

60. Regarding the vote in the General Assembly on the draft resolution on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, his delegation, like others, regretted that such a matter had been put to the vote. Time and time again, Morocco had stressed the importance of reforms and the need to have the support of all Member States to make such reforms credible. It must be recognized that a fair proportion of delegations had had difficulties in endorsing one particular paragraph of the text in question. It was to be hoped that, following the Secretary-General's appeal, the deliberations on that subject could be resumed before the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly so that a consensus could be reached, perhaps after minor amendments had been made. The respective functions assigned to the Council, the General Assembly and the different bodies in the resolution in question mattered more than the number of members of a governing council. The countries which had voted in favour of postponing consideration of the draft resolution had not taken any pleasure in doing so and had not done so in an irresponsible way or out of a desire for confrontation with donor countries. Their legitimate concerns would have to be taken into consideration in order to arrive at a result that was satisfactory to all.

61. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that the debate on operational activities for development was a valuable opportunity for a frank dialogue between Member States and representatives of the United Nations system on the implementation of resolution 47/199 and related issues. Such a debate should, however, be sensibly structured. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) dealt with the issues at stake in a definite sequence. He therefore suggested that, in due course, the Council should hold an exchange of views issue by issue, if possible in a meeting room that was more suited to a genuine dialogue.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

25th meeting

Wednesday, 7 July 1993, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.25

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

1. Ms. DOWSETT (Observer for New Zealand) said that the Secretary-General and some delegations had expressed disappointment at the General Assembly's recent decision to defer action on a reform package to strengthen the Organization's economic and social sectors. The negotiated package represented a number of finely-balanced compromises and her delegation shared the Secretary-General's hope that the reform process could be resumed during the next few months. The United Nations system must have regenerative capacity if it was to remain relevant and command the support it needed from Member States.

2. The Council's operational activities segment provided a valuable opportunity for Governments and agencies to examine the United Nations development system's response to the membership's changing requirements. The outcome of the current segment would provide an indication of the Council's capacity to assume a more prominent role in coordinating and directing the Organization's development system. In that connection, the purpose of General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, and of the Council's work, was to assist Governments to direct their development processes.

3. The current efforts should also be understood in the broader context of new tasks and challenges. Discussions, at the current session, on the World Summit for Social Development and on coordination for assistance and preventive action against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases had underscored the United Nations development system's central role. Focusing on improved capacity at the field level and maintaining responsiveness to changing requirements were two key factors.

4. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) provided a good starting point for the debate. There were already signs that the system was pursuing with some vigour the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199, building on work resulting from resolution 44/211; her delegation looked forward to reports that were more outcome-oriented; in particular, it welcomed the preparation of an overall work programme (ibid., annex I), whose benchmarks might require some adjustment to reflect the various purposes.

5. Her delegation welcomed the opportunity for an informal dialogue, during which certain important elements could be discussed. One was the requirement that the Council should consider whether the United Nations development system was taking effective coordinated action on national execution and programme approaches. The Secretary-General's report focused on agreements reached in CCPOQ on common interpretations of the programme approach and national execution. She hoped it would be possible to discuss practical issues and experience gained in that regard. Her delegation would also welcome further elaboration of the follow-up to the country strategy note (ibid., annex II); the relationship between a recipient Government's existing development strategies and the United Nations system's response should be reflected better in country strategy guidelines. It would also be interested in further discussion on how to implement the elements of General Assembly resolution 44/211, which dealt with strengthening the resident coordinator system.

6. Mrs. VOLKOFF (Canada) said that the United Nations system's operational activities for development were one of the most visible elements overseen by the Council. With visibility came scrutiny. Calls for greater efficiency and effectiveness had long been heard, and there had been some progress in regard to general principles, but clearly there was growing impatience for more tangible results. It was hoped that implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 would enable results to be better measured, at least at the procedural level. At recent meetings of governing bodies of various organizations, her delegation had stressed its interest in the resolution's timely implementation, particularly in regard to the early formulation of country strategy notes and United Nations field committees.

7. The Secretary-General's report (E/1991/73) outlined a work programme for the implementation of resolution 47/199. Although, at the Council level the plan must be rather general, it would have been helpful to have had a better indication of the extent of the results sought rather than general statements of intent. Her delegation also wondered whether the Secretary-General would ask individual resident coordinators to prepare workplans at the

country level. In view of the resolution's country focus, such plans could provide a more pragmatic contribution. Action at the country level could serve to hasten what otherwise appeared to be a somewhat leisurely approach.

8. It would be helpful to learn about the number of countries interested in developing a country strategy note and about plans for the new field committee structure. If the model was to work, it must be pursued seriously. Field committees should meet regularly and frequently, and should serve as a peer-group review process for all substantive new development policies, programmes, strategies and evaluations initiated in the country concerned. The process was a step up from the current type of in-country coordination mechanism; but little indication had yet been received about how many resident coordinators had begun to take it.

9. It had been clear, from discussion with resident representatives from various regions at the Governing Council of UNDP, that implementation of resolution 47/199 would depend to a great extent on the competence of those in charge. Recruitment of competent resident coordinators would be the key factor. As pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, management ability and the fostering of teamwork must be particular qualities looked for in the choice of resident coordinators. The latter must be able to represent the United Nations as a whole, in order to ensure coordination and profit from each body's comparative advantage, so as to make the optimum use of limited resources and reflect differing national priorities. Her delegation would watch the selection process with interest to see how transparent the process became and the extent to which the pool of persons eligible for appointment as resident coordinators was broadened.

10. Canada looked forward to supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to outline an agenda for development, an instrument that should help greatly in providing a basis for coordinating the system's development activities. The effort came at a time when the development system was being reviewed in a climate of reform. It was important that changes, such as the planned move of the UNDP Office of Project Services to the Secretariat, should lead to greater effectiveness. It was equally important that senior managers should see their agencies as part of a larger United Nations team, and strive to remove duplication where it existed. It was essential to have a clear sense of the comparative advantages of the various organizations and specialized agencies, and to streamline wherever possible, making hard choices when necessary.

11. Canada had recently undertaken a government reorganization, in which, *inter alia*, the number of cabinet ministers had been reduced from 35 to 25. The resulting reduction in bureaucracy would lead to a better focus on government service, surely an aspiration that the United Nations development system should share, the better to serve the world's poor.

12. The Secretary-General had an opportunity to study carefully, through the agenda for development, the role of technical cooperation, as well as to review, advance and adjust, where required, the restructuring that had already taken place. Her delegation looked forward to working with him in that critical task.

13. Mr. WANG Xinggen (China) said that, despite the profound changes in the international situation, the developing countries still had no opportunity for economic recovery. The obstacles in the way of development continued to exist and the gap between the rich North and the poor South to increase. The international community should strive to establish a fair and reasonable new international economic order, take steps to eliminate those obstacles and promote economic and social development in the developing countries.

14. At the same time, the agencies of the United Nations system for operational activities must respond positively, in order to provide more effective assistance to the developing countries in accordance with their needs and in conformity with the fundamental principle of the consensus adopted by the General Assembly in 1970,[1] and also to do their part in promoting international cooperation, removing the obstacles to development and promoting economic growth in the developing countries.

15. His delegation attached great importance to General Assembly resolution 47/199, and hoped that it would be effectively implemented. Without a sustained and stable increase in their resources, however, the agencies of the development system would be unable to make significant achievements. The mobilization of more resources for operational activities for development was a major challenge. His delegation had noted the Nordic countries' proposal for reform of funding modalities, and called upon the contributing countries to demonstrate their goodwill and increase their contributions, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in order to meet the needs of operational activities for development. He stressed that such contributions constituted an international obligation upon the countries concerned, not charity. Any attempt to attach conditions to contributions and assistance would be counter to the principles of the General Assembly resolutions and would be unacceptable.

16. Resolution 47/199 stressed that country strategy notes should be formulated by interested recipient Governments and that the agencies of the United Nations development system should provide assistance in their formulation at the request of the countries concerned. The purpose of the notes was to ensure that the assistance provided was more effectively incorporated into the development process of the recipient country. It should be borne in mind, however, that other Governments should not demand changes in the development strategies of the

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[1] General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV), annex.

recipient countries on the pretext of assistance and cooperation. Similarly, the United Nations should not use the formulation of the note as a pretext for requesting changes in the development strategies of recipient countries. The notes should serve only as a reference for the consideration of specific country programmes by agency governing bodies. Any attempt to widen their meaning and their scope of application would be unacceptable.

17. The importance of national execution as a means of strengthening the capacity of the recipient countries was reaffirmed in resolution 47/199. Since the specific conditions and existing capabilities of the various recipient countries differed, the decision on whether or not to adopt national execution should be left to the Governments concerned. It was hoped that the agencies of the system would take positive steps to remove any obstacles to increased national execution. The agencies needed to strengthen their coordination, simplify and unify their procedures, improve the training of project management personnel from recipient countries, and adopt specific measures to encourage national execution and enable it to be implemented smoothly. It should be emphasized that national execution should be genuinely executed by the recipient countries and not by the agencies or their field offices.

18. Over the years, there had been repeated calls in General Assembly resolutions for the decentralization of operational activities for development. In resolution 47/199, it had been decided that, in order to enhance the coherence of programming and resource utilization, programme development and component approval, authority should be further decentralized to the field offices. A number of agencies had taken steps to decentralize some authority from headquarters, but the extent of decentralization was not yet satisfactory, particularly in regard to project approval authority. Agency headquarters still retained project approval authority for a considerable number of projects, thus slowing down the speed of programme implementation. Since field offices had a clearer picture of the recipient country than headquarters, they should have a greater say in the approval of individual projects.

19. General Assembly resolution 47/199 laid a foundation for the continuous improvement of United Nations operational activities for development. His delegation hoped the relevant agencies of the United Nations system would deepen their understanding of the process and improve their coordination in order to implement the resolution to the full.

20. Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland) said that his delegation looked forward to discussing the current topic in greater detail in informal session, in which the participation of resident coordinators would be highly desirable. Switzerland continued to value the role of the United Nations system in international cooperation for development. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) formed a very good basis on which the Council could begin to review the system and give it the required guidance to speed up the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199. It was essential, in that regard, to strengthen the monitoring and guidance bodies, particularly the Operational Activities Branch of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the secretariat of CCPOQ. The success of the exercise would depend to a large extent on the outcome of the restructuring efforts to make intergovernmental mechanisms more efficient, and the financing of the system's operational activities more stable and predictable.

21. Broader issues deserving particular attention were the resident coordinator system, the country strategy note, the programme approach and national execution. The resident coordinator system must become an effective inter-agency system of collaboration at the country level, in order to ensure common, jointly financed approaches to country-specific development issues as well as better utilization of the system's substantive resources. The resident coordinator's foremost task should be inter-agency coordination. New approaches and incentives should be considered, such as the establishment of an inter-agency support unit and a small financing facility for common coordination activities, the harmonization of programming rules and procedures, and better monitoring and support, at headquarters level, of the resident coordinator function, possibly by setting up a focal point within UNDP. Stressing the importance of joint training, he welcomed the continued efforts of the International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin for United Nations system development staff. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's report, to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, on experience with interim United Nations offices in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

22. His delegation fully supported the concept of the country strategy note, as defined in annex II of the report and recommended a pragmatic and progressive approach, based on specific joint efforts in selected areas. He hoped the seminar planned for late 1993 would stimulate further action.

23. With regard to the programme approach, his delegation welcomed the agreement on a common interpretation. Part B of annex II of the report, relating to a common United Nations framework, should be fully applied. The Consultative Committee on Programmes and Operational Questions should develop an appropriate methodology for evaluating activities based on a programme approach.

24. With regard to national execution, the agreed text on a common framework left many questions not fully answered, such as the respective roles, responsibilities and accountability of the various partners. It was important that recipient Governments should themselves make concerted efforts to strengthen their institutional capacities. His delegation strongly recommended that the United Nations system should focus more on national capacity-building for overall development management.

The recent UNDP publication *Rethinking Technical Cooperation: Reforms for Capacity Building in Africa*[2] contained interesting proposals and recommendations in that regard. The system should begin to evaluate experience in national execution, particularly with regard to impact and sustainability. Detailed and conclusive information on the subject should be contained in the next progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

25. Mr. TREMEAUD (International Labour Office) said that the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) on the system's operational activities for development provided a good summary of the reforms under way, which reflected a new concept of the role of the system's development activities, in tackling the complex problems that characterized an increasingly interdependent world.

26. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/211, the governing body of ILO had carried out a detailed examination resulting in a global proposal entitled "active partnership policy".[3] The proposal had been endorsed by the International Labour Conference in June 1993. The overall objective of the policy was to improve the organization's technical and analytical capacity, to identify the problems, propose solutions for the elaboration of policies and to provide more effective assistance for the achievement of national development objectives.

27. The International Labour Conference had adopted a resolution which set the organization three major priorities in the technical cooperation field: to support democratization in member States by creating or strengthening effective mechanisms for the representation of the social partners; to fight against poverty, in particular by creating jobs and developing human resources; and to promote social protection.

28. Technical cooperation remained one of the primary means of action available to ILO to achieve its objectives but it must be undertaken together with other forms of action. It was essential that the various forms of action should be mutually strengthened in order to achieve a synergy.

29. ILO had carried out a series of bold measures which would make a positive contribution to the task of reforming the system's operational activities. However, it was concerned about the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives sought by the Governing Council of UNDP with regard to national execution and new arrangements relating to support costs.

30. By introducing Technical Support Services (TSS-1), the Governing Council of UNDP was seeking to encourage the five specialized agencies to improve their technical services in regard to sectoral studies and advice in programme and policy formulation. Although limited, the resources allocated to technical support services could play an effective role by complementing the analytical work financed under the agencies' regular budgets. The initial results of the application of the TSS-1 work programme for 1992-1993 had been generally positive. It was important that the objectives of those activities should be clearly defined in the national context and that UNDP and the Government concerned should demonstrate that commitment by allocating the necessary resources.

31. In view of the reduced resources available to UNDP for its own programmes at the national level, it was also necessary to place TSS-1 activities in the context of an integrated response of the United Nations system, as had been clearly stressed by the General Assembly in resolution 44/211.

32. The technical support of agencies at the project level was another important question. While expressing its support for an accelerated shift to national execution, the Governing Council of UNDP had recalled the multilateral nature of the technical cooperation it financed. This presupposed active participation by the specialized agencies in the preparation of projects within the TSS-2 framework and technical control of and support for nationally executed projects, as well as a contribution by the agencies in the execution of the programmes and projects through what was normally termed administrative and operational services.

33. However, those objectives were far from being achieved. The traditional gulf between agency-executed projects without substantial participation by national authorities and projects executed by the latter without the participation of the agencies continued to exist. The result was that the United Nations system was placing less and less of its technical resources and knowledge at the service of Member States in UNDP-financed technical cooperation projects.

34. Those concerns were clearly expressed in the recent decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP on national execution and support costs, and it was to be hoped that the situation would soon be corrected.

35. Mr. ZAHRAN (Observer for Egypt), commenting on the recent session of the Governing Council of UNDP, said that his delegation was deeply concerned at the considerable reduction in the allocation of resources to African countries at a time when the entire international community recognized the gravity of the situation in Africa. At the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Cairo in June 1993, the African countries had expressed surprise at the fact that UNDP was continuing to reduce its budget at a time when the requirements of the African countries were increasing. No one could question the need to give priority to assistance to the African countries in their efforts to develop

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[2] United Nations Development Programme, 1993, New York (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.III.B.4).

[3] International Labour Office, International Labour Conference, 80th session, report VI: *The Role of the ILO in Technical Cooperation*, chapter IV.

their economies and raise the level of living of their peoples. UNDP must make an effective contribution to that end with a view to implementing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. UNDP must also make a positive contribution to the International Conference on African Development, to be held in Tokyo in October 1993.

36. With regard to proposed changes in the structure of UNDP, including the proposal to reduce the level of directors of regional bureaux from Assistant-Secretary-General to D.2 as recommended by the Secretary-General, some had supported the change on the grounds that it came within the framework of the reform requested by the Secretary-General. The Egyptian delegation reaffirmed its reservations concerning the matter and considered, together with other Arab States, that due regard should be given to ensuring equality between the various regional bureaux. He urged the Administrator to review the situation in the documentation to be submitted to the special Governing Council session in 1994.

37. His delegation was concerned that UNDP should preserve its neutrality and ensure that the financial assistance it provided to Member States was not tied to any conditions. That was the only way to increase the confidence of developing and developed countries in the Programme.

38. He drew attention to the need for UNDP to avoid becoming involved in activities that were within the mandate of other United Nations bodies. In that connection, he recalled the position taken by developing countries at the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993.

39. UNDP should have drawn attention to the efforts made by developing countries to reorient and reconstruct their economies. It should be understood that their efforts would not be successful and sustainable in the absence of support for integrated socio-economic development operations. In the view of the developing countries, UNDP should support all the economic development operations of the developing countries.

40. His delegation expressed its satisfaction at the participation of developing countries at the World Conference on Human Rights and their position that the right of peoples to development was inalienable. UNDP could contribute to the implementation of that right and give it the priority it deserved. The activities of the United Nations as a whole and the restructuring measures taken by the United Nations in the economic and social fields must not have a negative effect on the course of action followed by UNDP. His delegation supported the idea that the Programme should retain its semi-independent character.

41. With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which could be regarded as an effective tool for intensifying coordination and general agreement in the field of implementation activities, his delegation expressed the hope that resources would be provided on a stable and foreseeable basis in a manner consistent with the constantly increasing needs of developing countries, particularly African nations. He hoped that efforts would be made to strengthen the resident representatives' ability to coordinate activities within the United Nations system and to cooperate closely with liaison officers designated by the Governments of recipient countries to ensure that the programmes were consistent with requirements. No one denied the vital need to restructure the United Nations, but such restructuring should be carried out with the consensus of recipient countries.

42. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the topic of operational activities for development was of great importance to FAO, as the largest specialized, executing or implementing agency of the United Nations system, with a regular programme that was intrinsically linked to its operational activities. The food and agricultural sectors continued to dominate the economies of many developing countries and their importance for development remained unchanged. Although the overall world food situation had improved during 1992, food shortages continued to affect many developing countries, particularly in Africa. The responsibilities, mandate and capacities of FAO were therefore as relevant as ever.

43. The agency's operational activities were directly linked to its long-standing, analytical and substantive activities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, financed under its regular programme budget. Individual field activities were managed and supported within well-planned technical and policy frameworks, and benefited directly from the global experience and expertise of FAO as well as from its management skills. The value of those activities went far beyond the value in dollar terms of the inputs provided. The provision of substantive review and guidance for the operational activities of FAO involved various technical committees, as well as intergovernmental regional conferences and technical commissions, and the governing bodies of FAO, the Council and the Conference.

44. The process had been further strengthened through the recent introduction of programme implementation and programme evaluation reports, which considered issues related both to the regular programme and to the field programme. That new approach to the governance of operational activities had been accompanied by a continuing diversification of the pattern of technical cooperation to meet the specific requirements of recipient countries. The funding base had also continued to be broadened, with trust fund arrangements with Governments increasing, as well as funding from the developing countries themselves. The largest single funding source was still UNDP, but the level had decreased considerably, currently standing at some 38 per cent of total field programme delivery.

45. The agency's operational activities were moving progressively towards programme and multidisciplinary approaches. The strengthening of national capacities remained a key feature. Systematic efforts were being made for the increasing involvement of national directors and the use of national experts in field activities. Many of the actions taken by FAO thus reflected the major themes and approaches of General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199.

46. Although a full progress report on the implementation of both resolutions was to be provided to the FAO Conference in November 1993, major aspects of resolution 47/199 had already been considered by the FAO Council in June 1993, including the country strategy note, programme approach, national execution, decentralization, the resident coordinator system, field management training and the harmonization of rules and procedures. FAO representatives in the field had a major responsibility for many of those aspects. They constituted the direct country-level link between the agency and its member developing countries, providing advice and ensuring the necessary interaction between regular programme activities and the competent national authorities. They remained fully accountable to the agency and reported directly to it. They played an equally important role in regard to operational activities, in particular through functions related to programme development and support services for field programmes and projects, and were a key component of the joint system of coordination of operational activities under the team leadership of the United Nations resident coordinator. FAO remained fully committed to the resident coordinator system and had participated in its enhancement through various activities carried out under ACC and its subsidiaries, in particular, CCPOQ.

47. The serious cutbacks in the overall resources of UNDP had resulted in a sharp decline in 1992 in FAO delivery under UNDP-funded programmes and projects as compared with the previous year. New project approvals had slowed down, reflecting the impact of the changed resource situation. At the same time, full application of the various facilities available under the new support-cost arrangements had been hampered by lack of familiarity with them. It was hoped that the jointly implemented training programmes would have a positive impact in that connection.

48. The programme for Technical Support Services at the programme level (TSS-1) was being fully implemented and efforts were already under way to finalize the preparation of a new work programme for 1994-1995. Experience so far was encouraging and had led to an increased number of policy-oriented activities through which policy and strategic advice could be provided to Member States, using the accumulated experience and competence of the five agencies concerned.

49. The level of approvals for TSS-2 funding of projects, however, had so far remained well below expectations, and FAO therefore welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of UNDP to accelerate the pace of approvals. It also strongly supported the Governing Council's request for greater involvement of specialized agencies in the design and formulation of UNDP programmes and projects, regardless of the modalities of implementation. It was essential to enhance the tripartite nature of the UNDP programme since that was one of the main aims of the new support-cost arrangements. FAO attached great importance to adequate technical support for operational activities, which were increasingly complex and multidisciplinary in nature. The importance of having assured resources for technical support could not be over-emphasized.

50. Under the new arrangements, there was already a significant shift to greater involvement of national government institutions in project execution, with national execution increasingly becoming the norm for programmes and projects funded by UNDP. There was, however, consensus that national execution should be pursued selectively and pragmatically, taking into account the needs and the capacity of the developing countries. At the same time, throughout all stages of the programme and project cycle, Governments should continue to have access to the technical advice and support of the United Nations system, in particular the specialized agencies.

51. The use of national project directors and national staff in internationally executed projects had been pioneered by FAO, which continued to support Governments in building up the required capacities to undertake national execution. It could and did contribute to the efforts of national institutions, thereby providing various services either as the implementing agency or through technical support. In that context, FAO also endorsed the encouragement given by the Governing Council of UNDP to greater use of the specialized agencies in the design, technical appraisal and backstopping of nationally executed projects. It trusted that the same would apply to projects where the Office for Project Services was involved in the managerial aspects. FAO could provide similar technical support services in these cases as well as acting as implementing agency.

52. In conclusion, he emphasized again the importance of the Council's discussion of operational activities for development. The nature of technical cooperation and the modalities for providing it through United Nations operational activities had undergone significant changes. Important decisions had been taken by the relevant United Nations bodies and were currently being implemented. The impact of those various new developments would have to be carefully assessed. In that context, FAO looked forward to the forthcoming evaluation of the new UNDP support-cost arrangements and stood ready to cooperate fully in that regard.

53. Mr. NANDOE (Suriname) said that the Secretary-General's progress report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199 (E/1993/73) noted that, as a result of cutbacks in aid budgets in many donor countries,

as well as other factors, contributions to various technical assistance funds and programmes were likely to decrease. The 47 least developed countries had experienced a fall in their per capita income for two consecutive years and, according to a recent report by UNCTAD, the outlook for 1993 was not promising. The report attributed the dampening of the least developed countries' hopes, after a decade of progress, to adverse changes in world economic conditions, such as the recession, competing claims on aid budgets, trade problems, and domestic difficulties in a number of individual countries. It must be recognized, therefore, that the capacity of UNDP to achieve its targets would be limited.

54. At the same time, the Secretary-General's report stressed the need to provide assistance in new fields such as human rights, judicial reforms and law enforcement, improved governance and the electoral process. If the multidisciplinary character of UNDP assistance was to be maintained, both developed and developing countries would have to guarantee the necessary flow of funds.

55. In that context, his delegation would like to know how paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which stressed the need for a substantial increase in resources, was to be implemented. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development had referred at the Council's previous meeting to the restructuring process, but, in his delegation's view, draft resolution A/47/L.58 had been very vague about the flow of resources on a predictable, continuous and assured basis.

56. His delegation was pleased to learn that consultations were taking place on widening the pool of candidates for the post of resident representative/coordinator and that the selection process was to be made more transparent. Perhaps the Secretary-General's representative could give the Council more details regarding the selection procedures and explain the ultimate goal of transparency.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m

26th meeting

Thursday, 8 July 1993, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.26

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

1. Mr. BAIER (Austria) noted with satisfaction that the United Nations system of operational activities had responded effectively and flexibly to rapidly changing requirements by redefining the balance between emergency assistance and the promotion of development and by providing support to societies grappling with fundamental economic, social and political changes. Austria also welcomed the operational activities' increased focus on people.

2. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, the United Nations system had taken numerous steps to enhance coordination and integration, including the concept of country strategy notes, the adopted common framework for the programme approach and national execution, and harmonization between the organizations concerned. Nevertheless, the diversity of the mandates of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies involved should be borne in mind. At the same time, the emphasis placed on decentralization and delegation of authority to the country level would strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to development requirements. Common premises, wherever feasible, would also facilitate integration, coordination, improved utilization of resources and reduction of administrative costs.

3. His delegation supported the strengthening of the function of resident coordinator and the efforts to open that post to candidates from members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and to make the selection process more transparent. The Resident Coordinator should oversee a multidisciplinary approach based on a division of labour and responsibilities, enhance consultations with all parties concerned through the country strategy note and, when required, adjust country programmes and major projects as they went along.

4. In the medium term, the United Nations system of operational activities would face a formidable challenge

with the continued widening of the gap between developed countries and most developing countries and, at the same time, the expected decrease in contributions. In that connection, his delegation welcomed thematic focusing and hoped that due consideration would be given to the three issues of science and technology for development, human development, and economic and social reforms. In order to secure the most effective utilization of available resources, reviews of the functioning of the various bodies would be equally as important as the reform of operational activities as such.

5. In that connection, he noted the importance of the draft resolution recently submitted to the General Assembly (A/47/L.58). Its adoption would considerably strengthen the coordinating role of the Council *vis-à-vis* the operational agencies and would improve the interface between the Council and the Assembly by eliminating duplicative debates and streamlining agendas. His delegation remained convinced that the draft resolution concerned, which was a compromise text, constituted what was politically feasible at the present stage and hoped that it would soon be possible to arrive at an agreement.

6. Mr. CHOI Jong Moo (Republic of Korea) said his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of resolution 47/199 which, while based on resolution 44/211, incorporated new modalities for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and at the same time redefined certain concepts on the basis of experience gained. He commended the efforts made by United Nations bodies, particularly CCPOQ, to reach agreement on a common interpretation of the programme approach. In that connection, the Republic of Korea looked forward to a report by the Secretary-General on an evaluation methodology permitting improved monitoring of the practical application of the programme approach at the field level.

7. It was encouraging to note that the role of national execution in country programmes had recently increased, even though much remained to be done in that area. Since the United Nations system was likely to be called upon to provide increased technical assistance, efforts should be made to utilize agency technical services to the full. The United Nations system should also continue to decentralize decision-making authority to the field offices, while ensuring respect for the principles of transparency and accountability.

8. With regard to resources, his delegation noted that the decrease in contributions had already had an adverse effect on certain programmes. There was a danger that such problems would eventually undermine the coherence and effective implementation of overall operational activities. While the United Nations system was required to maximize the efficiency of its activities within the limits of available resources, ways should nevertheless be found to secure a substantial increase in funding.

9. In conclusion, he stressed the need to use mid-term reviews based on annual progress reports to monitor the implementation of resolution 47/199 until 1995, when the General Assembly would make a comprehensive analysis of the question.

10. Mr. DE MARÍA Y CAMPOS (Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that UNIDO was currently engaged in reviewing its priorities in the light of the new requirements of developing countries, so as to be more responsive to socio-economic objectives. The responsibilities of UNIDO extended not only to the promotion of industrialization in developing countries, but also to the enhancement of human resources and technological skills for self-sustained industrial development. The organization's programmes and goals were fully geared to furthering the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development.

11. Industrial development in the developing countries was unevenly distributed between regions and had fallen considerably short of the expectations and targets proclaimed in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Cooperation[1] adopted at the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held in Lima in 1975. Despite liberalization policies towards investment and the growing emphasis on private-sector development, the overall proportion of foreign direct investments had declined significantly during the 1980s.

12. There were two other worrying trends: first, in many industrialized countries with sluggish economies, there were increasing calls to restrict "delocation" of investments, on the grounds that labour conditions in the developing countries were a factor of social dumping; and, secondly, similar arguments were advanced in the name of environmental requirements. Since most developing countries had liberalized their trade, investment and technology transfer policies and legislation, such arguments were not only unfair but also a source of antagonism. In his opinion, the only way out was through global economic recovery, enhanced employment opportunities in both developed and developing countries, increased overall competitiveness and reinforced international economic cooperation.

13. The impact of recession in the advanced countries had significantly reduced the level of voluntary contributions to the United Nations system. Moreover, development activities were now vying for funds with peace-keeping operations, which had greatly expanded. In that context, there was a need to integrate industrial development in a framework of broader socio-economic objectives. On the one hand, rapid industrial expansion and competitiveness should be promoted, while on the other, efforts should be made to ensure that industrialization, while environmentally rational, also led to more equitable development through job creation, the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhancement of the role of women.

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[1] See A/10/12, chapter IV.

14. In that connection, there were several UNIDO programmes that should have a major impact on social progress. His organization was planning to emphasize the enhancement of human resources, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the correlation between industry and the environment, support for technological developments with regard to energy and renewable energy sources, and the strengthening of institutional infrastructure and capability in support of industry. One of the most vital aspects of the reorientation of UNIDO was its increased emphasis on relationships between enterprises, particularly links between foreign and local firms with respect to finance, technology, marketing and other contractual arrangements. UNIDO was also planning to concentrate on economic and technological cooperation between developing-country enterprises.

15. In his view, such a reorientation of the activities of UNIDO was both realistic and achievable, but the scarcity of available resources was a problem. The current system, essentially revolving around UNDP country programming and its global themes, did not always fully meet analytical and advisory needs and priorities of Member States, particularly in the industry and production subsectors. In that connection, UNIDO intended to strengthen coordination and teamwork.

16. The programme approach, if applied at the subsectoral or thematic level, would reflect national programmes in the broader context of the United Nations system. Resident coordinators should endeavour to take full account of the capacities of UNIDO, and his organization did not propose to limit itself to operational activities but also intended to place more emphasis on upstream analysis and advice to Governments.

17. He agreed that the attainment of the objective of sustainable development depended on stability that was social and economic as much as environmental, hence the importance of the World Summit for Social Development to be held in Copenhagen in 1995. Human development, which was the theme of that meeting, implied first of all a recognition that the main responsibility for development lay with society itself. Development could be stimulated or accelerated by outside assistance, but it could certainly not be imposed or transferred. In that connection, there seemed to be an emerging recognition of the need for ''shared development'', which was doubtless the best long-term solution.

18. Mr. AFANASYEV (Russian Federation) said that developments in world economic relations called for a review of the operational activities of the United Nations system. Like the Secretary-General, the Russian Federation would like the Economic and Social Council to play a coordinating role in that area.

19. In Russia, economic reforms were having harsh consequences for the population, and many more difficulties were anticipated. That was why the Russian Federation welcomed UNDP Governing Council decision 93/15 concerning support for the transition to a market economy and democracy in countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. UNDP had the technical expertise and advisory services that undoubtedly equipped it to provide assistance in the fields of management, privatization or training of economic managers. Russia hoped that the transfer of the UNDP Office for Project Services to the Department for Development Support and Management Services would not have an adverse effect on operational activities. His delegation also supported the measures to reduce the administrative budget of UNDP, although it was somewhat concerned over the volume of UNDP resources for the period 1993/1994, which apparently would be far below the forecasts for the fifth programming cycle.

20. The Russian Federation also hoped to benefit from the experience of UNIDO, particularly in regard to industrial restructuring and training of supervisory staff.

21. An agreement had recently been signed for the opening of a United Nations office in Moscow which might help to resolve certain problems confronting the Russian Federation, particularly that of refugees.

22. His delegation noted that there was often duplication between the programmes of UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations bodies, and that the various programmes and funds of the United Nations system should harmonize their programming cycles and adjust them, as necessary, to national budgetary cycles, strategies and plans. In order to improve cooperation with the countries in transition, coordination of the activities of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions needed to be enhanced. The Russian Federation was pleased with its cooperation with UNFPA and UNICEF, and indeed intended to strengthen it.

23. Lastly, his delegation shared the concern expressed by a number of other delegations with regard to the deadlock in negotiations on the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. It was willing to participate in consultations and to display flexibility, and it hoped that it would be possible to reach a consensus and arrive at an early solution permitting the financing of operational activities.

24. Mr. NICULESCU (Romania) said that his country supported the efforts started in 1989 to improve operational activities for development, which played a central role in building national capacity and supporting national strategies in priority areas. The high-level debate at the current session of the Economic and Social Council had highlighted certain factors affecting the environment in which the system operated, such as the world's deteriorating economic and social situation, the challenges facing most developing countries and the countries in transition, and the difficulties in financing operational activities. Those difficulties could only be resolved by concerted action on the part of all organizations of the United Nations system.

25. In recent years, development had increasingly come to be viewed as a people-centred process. Applied to operational activities, that concept created new tasks and requirements for the system, and it was therefore particularly important to ensure that the system retained its flexibility and responsiveness.

26. Romania's cooperation with UNDP and with other funds and programmes demonstrated the ability of the system to respond effectively to changing requirements. In the case of Romania, a country in transition towards a market economy, UNDP support was being directed to three areas: privatization, human resources development, and protection of the environment. UNDP had also helped to implement a long-term programme for retraining former economic managers and training new ones for the private sector. Lastly, UNDP had recently sent a mission to Bucharest to evaluate the economic consequences for Romania of the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

27. His delegation wished to express its thanks to UNFPA, which had enabled a population and housing census to be carried out in Romania for the first time in 15 years, and to UNICEF, whose Executive Board had, in May 1993, approved a significant programme designed to address the urgent needs of Romanian children.

28. Romania appreciated United Nations technical cooperation activities and welcomed the new measures taken to restructure that sector, in particular the establishment of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, which had an important role to play.

29. His delegation considered that, in order to improve the effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system, greater decentralization was required at the country level.

30. It hoped that outstanding matters connected with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system would be settled as soon as possible, thereby enabling operational activities to be better adjusted to national development strategies.

31. Mr. GOUDYMA (Ukraine) said he regarded the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 as one of the most important stages in the reform of the United Nations system. Ukraine regretted the fact that the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) failed to mention the coordination difficulties encountered by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and contained no critical analysis. In general, Ukraine favoured the basic approaches to operational activities for development that were indicated.

32. The implementation of the proposals of certain countries, particularly the Nordic countries, regarding the restructuring of the governing bodies of [illegible] enhance the effectiveness of operational activities. It was also necessary for the membership of those governing bodies to rotate.

33. His delegation considered that the assessment of the current economic situation in the territory of the former USSR was altogether appropriate. Ukraine was undergoing a major economic crisis as a result of a decline in production, an increase in its expenditures, the economic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Those difficulties called for action and made the application of paragraphs 48 and 49 of resolution 47/199 even more urgent. Ukraine had no wish to challenge the orientation of operational activities for development in favour of the least developed countries, but it hoped that UNDP and other United Nations funds and programmes would strengthen their activities in favour of the countries in transition. Lastly, it emphasized that an integrated United Nations mission had recently been set up in Ukraine to contribute, in particular, to operational activities.

34. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that he fully subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77. However, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 prompted some additional comments on his part.

35. One of the most innovative concepts contained in the resolution was that of the country strategy note. Brazil was anxious that, in the application of that concept, the principle governing the entire system of United Nations operational activities should not be forgotten, namely that it was the recipient country that was primarily responsible for decisions and coordination of such activities. Consequently, the mechanism of the national strategy note was optional, and it was for Governments to decide whether, in the particular case, it could enhance coordination of United Nations cooperation activities. It was therefore inappropriate to promote that concept too forcefully: if it was a good one, it would sell itself. It had been devised because the previous machinery defined by General Assembly resolution 44/211, namely the national programme framework/integrated United Nations response approach, had failed. It was now necessary to ensure that the new coordination instrument made available to recipient Governments was fully successful.

36. There seemed to be unanimous agreement on the need for speedy and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, yet one of its main provisions—namely, the call for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development, commensurate with the increasing needs of the developing countries—was widely ignored. The UNDP representative had in fact indicated informally that the dwindling resource base of the United Nations development system was the largest constraint to the implementation [illegible]

ernments to prepare country strategy notes in the context of ever-scarcer resources.

37. Progress in strengthening the resident coordinator system was necessarily slow, but his delegation hoped that it would continue in the future. It would also welcome an assurance that the function of resident coordinator was indeed restricted to the coordination of operational activities in the field and did not have any political tinge.

38. In 1992, the Council had embarked on a new phase of its efforts to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. The suspension of the discussions on the proposals made in the Nordic project and on the rationalization of the agendas of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly and the Council perhaps signified that those proposals were not yet ripe. Brazil was fully ready to participate in a resumption of the negotiations, since it was essential for them to succeed. However, it also concurred in the UNICEF representative's comments to the effect that the United Nations should attach as much importance to substantive problems in the economic and social sectors as to internal structural and coordination issues. Only if it did so would it at last become a forum for the adoption of decisions that were meaningful for Member States and their populations.

39. Mr. DEMIN (Belarus) said it was impossible to exaggerate the importance of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which reflected an international consensus in favour of development. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1993/73) and the rest of the documentation before the Council, together with the statements made by the representatives of various programmes and agencies, gave an overall picture of the multiple activities undertaken to give effect to that resolution. There was no doubt that, in order to carry out the necessary work with regard to harmonization and adjustment of programming cycles, the programme approach, national execution, decentralization and training, there was also a need for in-depth restructuring of the Organization: Belarus shared the concern expressed by many speakers regarding the continuing disagreements in that area, and the General Assembly should revive the negotiations that had now been suspended, with a view to arriving at a final consensus.

40. In fact, broad agreement already existed regarding the programme approach and national execution, in particular; it was now necessary to implement the decisions taken so that they produced tangible results at the country level. It was indeed for that reason that the United Nations machinery needed to be adapted; in that connection, he commended some of the decisions recently adopted by UNDP regarding, in particular, the population sector, the development of Africa in the 1990s, and the transition of the East European countries to a market economy.

41. In the countries in transition, which were compelled to make a whirlwind transition from confrontation to policy coordination, the first phases of that radical transformation had inspired a desire to play a greater role in world trade: Belarus, in particular, had sought new trading partners. It was UNDP that had first opened up such possibilities by granting Belarus the status of recipient country in 1991. Today, Belarus had become an active partner and the UNDP office in the country was a dynamic interlocutor of the Government, which it helped to formulate projects for privatization, re-equipping of enterprises, etc. A draft short-term programme was being prepared together with UNDP.

42. Belarus firmly intended to continue such cooperation and to give practical effect to the provisions of resolution 47/199.

43. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) deplored the fact that, in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, a process which had now been suspended, no provision had been made for increasing the resource commitments of the international community for development; UNDP's resources had even been significantly curtailed. He hoped that the negotiations would resume shortly and that the new commitments expected would be forthcoming.

44. With regard to programme development and implementation, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development had struck an encouraging note. Most developing countries were amenable to the change process and were ready to take initiatives. The adoption of the country strategy note, the harmonization of programming cycles, the systematization of the programme approach and national execution were particularly commendable. The basic challenge was to build up a national capacity in each recipient country so as to encourage self-reliance: the test of success of United Nations programmes and funds was precisely in their catalytic role in reducing dependency. Therefore, it was important to promote the increased utilization of national professionals and local consultants and consulting firms which could help to reduce the cost of assistance, while at the same time enhancing national capacity. However, it was also necessary for outside support to be properly adjusted to the situation and for follow-up measures to be taken.

45. Overall, he was encouraged by the various innovative measures undertaken by the Secretariat and the agencies to respond to General Assembly resolution 47/199.

46. Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services) said that the time had undoubtedly come to rethink cooperation for development. While there were legitimate fears of a proliferation of situations similar to that in modern-day Somalia, it was essential not to stop investing—or, still worse, to disinvest—in multilateral cooperation. On the

contrary, the future of all mankind might very well rest on the long-term investments that were made today.

47. The Secretary-General had undertaken a comprehensive programme of reforms to revamp the Secretariat's economic machinery, and in particular had established the Department for Development Support and Management Services, with particular responsibility for weighing the United Nations' response to the technical cooperation needs of developing countries, especially the least developed among them, and the countries in transition. The Department had a twofold mandate: to act as an executing agency for programmes and projects relating to institution-building and human resources development, especially in such areas as economic management and policy, public administration and capacity-building in the public and private sectors; and to be the focal point at United Nations Headquarters for the provision of management services for United Nations technical cooperation activities. In that connection, the Governing Council of UNDP, in its decision 93/30, had encouraged the Department to help to strengthen national capacities for programme management and, in its decision 93/42, had accepted the modalities for the transfer, within the Department, of the Office for Project Services. He informed the Council that that transfer had now been set for 1 January 1994.

48. In response to Governments' changing needs, the Department had strengthened its activities in areas of rapidly growing importance such as privatization, governance, electoral administration and military to civilian use conversion. It was collaborating with the other new departments working in the economic and social sectors and was strengthening its cooperation with the humanitarian assistance, political and peace-keeping departments. However, it was national capacity-building that lay at the core of United Nations technical cooperation activities: in that connection, the Department had participated fully with the other organizations of the system in the implementation of various provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 47/199.

49. In particular, the Department wished to participate in the formulation of country strategy notes. For the purpose of actively promoting national self-reliance, it was organizing training courses and developing programmes in cooperation with the ILO's International Training Centre at Turin. It was planned to conduct a pilot study in a number of least developed countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal, Jamaica and Malawi, in order to assess their financial management system and the improvements that needed to be made to it. In that connection, the Cairo Plan of Action adopted in March 1993 was a major step forward. In all those endeavours, the Department drew heavily on the experience and expertise of many developing countries so as to strengthen technical cooperation among developing countries, a subject covered by an interregional symposium in Abidjan in June 1992. The Department had made special efforts to disseminate certain Asian experiences among African countries. In association with an African grouping, the Department was currently cooperating with the Government of Japan in organizing the International Conference for the Development of Africa which would take place in Tokyo in October 1993.

50. The Department would not fail further to consult countries members of the Council and the UNDP Governing Council on all matters relating to the evolving role of United Nations technical cooperation activities. It was intended that such activities should support humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation efforts, as well as peace-keeping activities.

51. Mr. WORONIECKI (Poland) said that the revitalization of the United Nations, and revival of participation in and increased responsibility for global development were questions of interest to all parties concerned, namely donor or recipient Governments, international organizations and financial institutions, technical cooperation and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and all segments of the societies concerned. Obviously, they were also of interest to the Economic and Social Council, which should go beyond its coordinating role and propose a global vision of United Nations activities in the socio-economic sphere. As was stated in a document submitted by the ILO to the eightieth International Labour Conference, cooperation for development could no longer be just any technical cooperation. It must be selective, consistent and effective.

52. Poland viewed the fortieth session of the UNDP Governing Council as an example of how a governing body should act in the face of mounting development problems. The Governing Council had completed its agenda in a fortnight and had adopted a number of important decisions, of which he mentioned several examples (see E/1993/L.24). One of the most striking (93/15) related to technical cooperation in support of the transition to a market economy and democracy in countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. That decision, which recognized the complexity and difficult nature of the transition, called for a new concept of technical cooperation among the countries in transition. The successful completion of the transition to a market economy and the integration of the countries concerned within the world economy would be in the interests of the whole international community, as the UNDP Governing Council had duly recognized.

53. UNDP and UNFPA had devised special programmes to facilitate the transition; the programme for Poland, for example, concentrating on human resources development, the establishment of market-economy institutions and ecological infrastructure, offered numerous possibilities for joint enterprises with interested countries and organizations. Certain non-governmental organizations such as Rotary International were also active in Poland (''BEST'' project).

54. Difficulties related to the overall economic environment and those resulting from the restructuring of the United Nations economic and social sectors should not have a negative impact on development cooperation within the United Nations system. The recipient countries had invested heavily in such cooperation, in terms both of human and of material resources, thus serving not only their own interests but also the goals of international cooperation. They should not be disappointed in their endeavours and expectations.

55. In its decision 93/15, the UNDP Governing Council had noted with interest the activities undertaken by UNDP to facilitate the transition to a market economy and democracy in the countries of Eastern Europe. In that connection, Poland welcomed the recent initiative of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States to prepare region-wide periodic reports on technical cooperation in the countries concerned. That experience would surely make overall technical cooperation activities more effective and less costly.

56. Full use should be made of the comparative advantages of technical cooperation by the specialized agencies to overcome the problems of transition in the Central and East European countries at relatively low cost for the development partners and societies concerned. The prospects of cooperation between developing countries and countries in transition should also be enhanced.

57. Mr. YAKER (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) noted that the main objectives of the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, which were the struggle against poverty and unemployment and strengthening of social cohesion, could also be goals for United Nations operational activities. For Africa, the attainment of those goals would be set in a context defined by five considerations.

58. First, there was the tendency towards regionalization, marked by the establishment of major groups of countries. Secondly, there was already a development strategy for the continent in the form of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Treaty of Abuja establishing the African Economic Community, which would enter into force shortly. Thirdly, Africa could also be regarded as a region in transition. Like the countries to which that term was normally applied, it aspired to democracy, a multiparty system and respect for human rights and had a private sector. Like those countries, too, it had too many upheavals and conflicts: there was not a single African country that was not in crisis. Fourthly, the continuum of humanitarian action to development should take account of another continuum, namely that linking the State to the subregional level and the subregional to the regional level. Lastly, interregional cooperation was particularly important, not only among developing countries but also between North and South.

59. In Africa, the transition was likely to take longer than elsewhere. The continent was preparing to become a full partner in the world economy, to which it would contribute its enormous potential. In that connection, he noted that Africa was the richest region of the world, that it contained the poorest populations and 31 of the least developed countries, and that its population was growing by 3.1 per cent each year. Africa would thus have a heavy impact on the world's future, and sustainable development was inconceivable unless the situation in Africa was addressed differently, bearing in mind its urgency.

60. All those factors pointed to the need to strengthen regional cooperation. Doubtless that was why the Secretary-General had decided that the regional commissions would play a major role in coordinating United Nations activities. As far as Africa was concerned, an inter-agency committee comprising the Organization of African Unity, ECA and the African Development Bank had assessed the situation in the continent and proposed measures to improve it.

61. The regional commissions must participate in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, particularly in respect of the country strategy note, the programme approach, national execution and the harmonization of programming cycles. It was therefore regrettable that the regional commissions had not been invited to the March 1993 session of CCPOQ, where agreement had been reached on a joint interpretation of the programme approach and national execution. Similarly, paragraph 40 of resolution 47/199 provided for the establishment of a committee "which will normally comprise all resident United Nations system representatives". It was essential for the ECA regional directors to be members of that committee, to which they could provide the benefit of a regional perspective which had been strangely absent from the current discussion. The Secretary-General himself had spoken about such a perspective, and Africa needed one. The informal consultations that were to be initiated would doubtless provide an opportunity to give the matter further thought.

62. The PRESIDENT, winding up the discussion on operational activities for development, referred to two major problems which had emerged in the course of the deliberations.

63. The first was the suspension of the New York negotiations on the proposed restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Those negotiations undoubtedly had implications for the Economic and Social Council, but their successful conclusion was in the hands of the General Assembly. It would, however, be a good idea for the Council, which was at the origin of the proposal, to discuss it itself, both as a body and in institutional terms. Perhaps, short of being able to revive the negotiations themselves, its members could collectively create the climate of accommodation which would break the deadlock.

64. Secondly, there was the problem of the financing of operational activities for development. For the first time, a tendency that had been feared had become a reality: resources for development programmes were dwindling, and peace-keeping operations were mobilizing a growing proportion of the available funds. The Council might perhaps wish to ponder that phenomenon: was it the result of a political decision? Was it a deliberate choice and, if so, where was that choice spelt out? If, on the other hand, it flowed from an empirical sequence of specific decisions, the new state of affairs was even more problematic. While the humanitarian operation in Somalia had cost $166 million, the associated military operation had cost $1.5 billion. Was it to be concluded that the United Nations was now practising a double standard?

65. Those two issues were of concern to all United Nations development institutions. Only an overall response by the United Nations system as a whole could provide a solution for them. The time had come to abandon a certain inter-agency folklore, marked by competition and turf wars.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

27th meeting

Thursday, 8 July 1993, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.27

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should begin its exchange of views by examining the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73).

2. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) suggested that the Council should start by considering chapter III of the Secretary-General's report, which raised the issues members would wish to discuss with representatives of the funds and programmes. Most of the issues in chapter II were of chiefly inter-governmental interest.

3. Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland) supported that suggestion. He thought the Council might adopt the procedure followed at earlier meetings when a number of representatives had put a series of questions which were later answered by representatives of the programmes and agencies.

4. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to begin the discussion with chapter III of the report and follow the procedure mentioned by the observer for Switzerland.

It was so decided.

5. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada) understood that a number of countries had expressed interest in the country strategy note. He would welcome further information on the matter.

6. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) asked how the last sentence of annex II, paragraph 6, of the Secretary-General's report could be reconciled with the sentence in paragraph 39 (*c*) of Assembly resolution 47/199 which required members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies to inform, consult with and take account of any views of the resident coordinator in the context of major programming exercises before reporting to their headquarters on major programming and policy issues.

7. Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium) said that he would like information concerning coordination with activities of national organizations of the recipient country.

8. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) asked whether the Secretariat or agencies had given any thought to the possible results of the seminar referred to in paragraph 33 of the Secretary-General's report.

9. Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland) said that he would welcome information on the way in which the system operated on the basis of Assembly resolution 47/199.

10. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) noted that under resolution 47/199 it was for each Government to decide whether it would opt for the country strategy note procedure. His Department had accordingly asked its repre-

sentatives in the field to ascertain whether Governments wished to do so. Thirty formal and 10 informal replies had been received. The informal replies were those given by officials visiting New York and were subject to confirmation. Roughly 20 countries had indicated that they would take up the country strategy note procedure. He thought that the Department should have a fairly complete picture of the situation later in the year.

11. With regard to the relationship between paragraph 6 of annex II of the report (E/1993/73) and paragraph 39 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 47/199, he observed that the country strategy note *per se* was not a programming instrument. It was a frame of reference.

12. Turning to the question of a seminar, it had been decided to organize a workshop in Turin in October with participants from countries interested in adopting the country strategy note procedure. It was hoped that the workshop would yield a representative set of models. At the present stage, the United Nations system was in the process of organizing itself and awaiting information on the position of Governments.

13. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said that UNICEF had held an in-depth briefing on all the elements of General Assembly resolution 47/199 and the country strategy note and had discussed them with the various Governments. Government reactions had been quite positive.

14. UNICEF welcomed the new tool, which it considered could help to mobilize the United Nations system in its endeavour to achieve the goals of resolution 47/199.

15. With regard to the question raised by the United Kingdom representative, he said that before UNICEF finalized its country programme, it always held a country programme review meeting with the Government concerned and that the resident coordinator was always invited to participate in the meeting. It should also be noted that the resident coordinator was informed and fully consulted with regard to the preparation of the plans of UNICEF.

16. Ms. WYRSCH (Observer for Switzerland) asked the resident coordinators present whether they felt that they knew what unit at Headquarters they could rely on for assistance or where they should send the country strategy note, and whether they felt that a system-wide training arrangement would be a suitable vehicle for helping them.

17. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) asked the resident coordinators how far they felt that the country strategy note would help them in their work in the field. Would the country strategy note as formulated in the resolution be a useful tool? He hoped that, if they thought not, they would be frank.

18. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that, since no one appeared to dispute the relevance of paragraph 39 (*c*) of resolution 47/199 in the context of paragraph 6 of annex II of the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73), some reference should be included in the last sentence of paragraph 6 to the fact that it was the responsibility of each organization "working in collaboration with the resident coordinator" to ensure that its projects and programmes were consistent with the overall country strategy note. The absence of any such reference was a major omission.

19. Mr. GOUDYMA (Ukraine) said that the group of countries in the former USSR that had become recipients of aid had a number of needs which other countries did not have. For example, there was no free market structure, the process of privatization had begun, and there was a lack of foreign financial flows. He wondered whether there was any concept in the United Nations operational system for development concerning the provision of assistance to those countries. So far the assistance provided had not been very effective. There was perhaps need for a joint approach to the group so that the assistance provided would be more effective.

20. In that connection he wondered whether the United Nations had established any mechanism that would enable it to provide timely assistance before the resource problem became desperate.

21. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) endorsed the proposal to include a reference in annex II of the report to collaboration with the resident coordinator.

22. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that, at the end of the previous meeting, the President had raised two subjects on which he had invited Council members to think and act. One had to do with the reform process and the current stalemate, and the other with the growth, or lack, of resources. The numbers he had quoted had been in the context of Somalia. If the real aim of the question about the figures had been to discover whether there was or was not a resource problem, the answer was clear: there was a serious problem. Moreover, its impact would be even more significant in the near future, if the statements made by several representatives in the Council were to be taken seriously.

23. The other question that had been asked was whether there should be a harmonized approach to dealing with national projects of the newly independent recipient countries. He wished to make it very clear that the determination of national priorities was a domestic endeavour, on which the international community, in the form of United Nations operational activities, could bring to bear several ingredients in the form of issues of global concern and major themes. For example, international goals and strategies had been established for children. A resident coordinator putting together a country strategy note would necessarily remind the Government concerned of the existence of those goals and priorities, but it would be for that Government to choose. It was not for the United Nations system to attempt to recon-

struct pre-existing regional mechanisms of cooperation between countries. In the case of regional programmes, UNDP followed a system wherein the States of the region engaged in a highly structured dialogue on which UNDP could bring technical opinions to bear. The United Nations system was of course free to reject any suggested project, and would no doubt be able to find an elegant way of presenting an alternative.

24. Mr. MATTHEWS (United Nations Development Programme) said that the focal point to which the country strategy note should be addressed would be the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, which would have taken the lead in contacting the resident coordinator. Clearly, however, the whole point of the country strategy note was that it should be the country's note. All the organizations which were involved as a team in the exercise of formulating the note would receive copies of it, for purposes of background information for their operational activities in the particular country. The position regarding the destination of the country strategy note, therefore, was clear, but it was perhaps not so clear in respect of the other issues with which the resident coordinators would have to deal.

25. In response to the question about the usefulness of holding a workshop or seminar in order to develop greater cohesion and better ideas about the country strategy note, he said that while he believed that the workshop, to be held in Turin, was an excellent initiative, its real utility would depend on the selection of countries invited to attend.

26. It was too soon to tell whether the country strategy note would be truly useful. In his view, it would only be helpful to the extent that the note was truly owned by the recipient Government. There was a danger that, if the exercise was imposed on a country, it might be dutifully fulfilled and a document produced, but that document would remain untouched and would not be effective. It was therefore not known at the present stage how useful the country strategy note would be. There was certainly a need for a framework for better coordination of the system's activities and the country strategy note seemed a good solution, in so far as it was genuinely supported and ultimately owned by the Governments concerned. All the organizations in the United Nations system engaged in operational activities believed that the idea was a good one and should be vigorously pursued.

27. The actual format of the country strategy note was still not decided. Much discussion would be necessary and the workshops that would be held would need to concentrate on that matter. Nobody on the secretariat side had a clear idea yet of what the note should look like. It might be a shopping list of projects, but plenty of those were already available. On the other hand, if there was an effort to find a common ground for the whole system, currently comprising some 35 organizations, it might end as a statement of general principles that would not be of great practical use. The format of the note, therefore, needed to be addressed with great care, and an effort made to find one that would be useful as a guide that could inform all the subsequent programming action of the bodies concerned, whether technical agencies, such as WMO, or broad-based organizations such as UNDP or UNICEF.

28. Ultimately, the acid test would be the amount of value added by the country strategy note. Unless it was clearly seen that it was adding something to the process of programming, it would be necessary to think twice about it. All the agencies were producing country programmes already. The idea was to produce a common framework against which the programmes of individual agencies could be tested. The Secretariat and all the agencies were, however, determined to press ahead and try to provide an answer as soon as possible.

29. Mr. BLAIN (United Nations Development Programme), speaking as a recently returned field representative, said that it might be premature to give a definite answer to the question put by France because the modality was only just being introduced. However, as envisaged, the country strategy note would facilitate the adoption of a unified response to the needs of the recipient country in a comprehensive and coherent manner. It should also enhance the benefits derived by the recipient country from the resources channelled into its development through the United Nations system.

30. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) said that most developing countries had their own development programmes and strategies and, in many of them, the resources provided by the United Nations were only supplementary and in relative terms a small proportion. It would appear that a country strategy note could range from a simple account of the projects involved to a thick document setting forth an elaborate strategic plan. He wondered how the United Nations proposed to reconcile the country strategy note with what the countries themselves were developing in the way of plans and strategies and the way in which the United Nations system was responding to them.

31. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that Malaysia had raised another important question that was closely related to the point made by Mr. Matthews, namely, that the acid test of the country strategy note would be the value added by the exercise. He could try to give a theoretical answer, but would prefer to confine himself to suggesting a few points for thought.

32. The country strategy note as such represented a level of effort required from those developing countries which chose to take that route in the context of a better coordination of the United Nations system of operational activities. From the Secretariat's point of view, it would be naïve not to recognize that one of its purposes was to improve coordination at the country level of the activities of the United Nations system, including the use not only of funds under the authority of the Secretary-General but also those outside his authority, namely, the

regular budgets of the specialized agencies. The decision to recommend the preparation of a country strategy note had been adopted in the context of the triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system. The question was whether the strategy note and the accompanying discipline would help to coordinate the system's activities better or not. Obviously, that was still not determined.

33. The choice by a Government to formulate a country strategy note already implied a certain degree of dissatisfaction in principle with the amount of coordination that the system was exercising at the country level. If a recipient country felt that the system was doing an excellent job, that country might wish not to have a country strategy note. If a country strategy note was to be prepared, however, two things were required: first, there must be a clear understanding of the priorities the United Nations system was supposed to help to address in an integrated fashion, and secondly, more than one agency must be present in the country concerned.

34. In some developing countries, the presence of the United Nations system of operational activities, excluding the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional banks, was not very significant in monetary terms. In others, for example some of the least developed countries, the monetary value was very significant. Some least developed countries, however, were operating under the strict and all-inclusive discipline of the World Bank, and one question that remained to be settled, especially in regard to Africa, was whether the country strategy note would or would not involve World Bank participation. In some developing countries, particularly in Asia and Latin America, the operational activities carried out by UNDP and the agencies played a significant role in mobilizing local resources. In fact, the growth of local resources assigned to development through the United Nations system was greater than the growth of multilateral resources. Such countries might well choose to prepare a country strategy note. To sum up, in terms of improving the coordination of the United Nations activities, the country strategy note seemed useful. Whether it would work remained to be seen.

35. He endorsed the UNICEF representative's answer to the point raised by the United Kingdom. It would be useful to have the amendment in writing.

36. Mr. LINCOLN (World Meteorological Organization) said that he represented one of the small technical specialized agencies that had no field representation. The problems in its area of expertise tended to be global, regional, subregional and country-oriented, more or less in that order. There were large areas of Africa, Latin America and Oceania where meteorological and hydrological data were missing on a day-to-day basis. While the country strategy note sounded an excellent idea, it would, by definition, be country specific. It would therefore be a real challenge for the resident coordinators to incorporate in it the inputs of agencies without country representation. There were also many subjects, for example, aviation, health and disease, meteorology and hydrology, and so forth, which went beyond individual country boundaries but had implications for national action. In those and other areas, it would be a real challenge for the resident coordinators to ensure that the subregional and regional dimension was included in the country strategy note and properly coordinated with the country's neighbours.

37. Mr. HAMBURGER (Observer for the Netherlands) said that it seemed to be generally agreed that the country strategy note should be elaborated at the request of the country concerned and that it should be integrated with the strategy of a given country. However, recipient countries were often engaged in structural adjustment programmes based on the policy framework papers of the Bretton Woods institutions. He wondered how the agencies and the Secretariat envisaged integrating the country strategy note not only into the country's national plan but also into a financial policy framework which might be crucial for its short-term development.

38. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) asked how far World Bank representatives in the field, where there were any, would be associated in the initial experiment with the country strategy notes.

39. Mr. NGONGI (World Food Programme) said that his organization had a project rather than a programme approach. Nevertheless, the Executive Director had drawn the attention of directors of operations to the need to participate, under the leadership of the resident coordinators, in the preparation of the country strategy note. Some years ago, WFP had introduced the idea of a country strategy outline, to be discussed with its partners in the field and in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, as well as with the Governments concerned. Although the format of the country strategy note was still not clear, it would undoubtedly be useful to WFP as a way of bringing it into the mainstream of overall programming. The country strategy note would form a key link between the project and the programme approaches. The fact that all the operational agencies would be invited to participate in preparing it would expand the area of collaboration and facilitate the integration of operational activities. The aid provided by WFP could rarely have the desired impact unless it was associated with the resources of the rest of the United Nations system. He believed that, as a late developer of the programme approach, WFP would benefit from the introduction of the country strategy note and said that it looked forward to taking an active part in the new system.

40. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said that UNICEF regarded national development plans as the over-arching central document. In countries where there was a central development plan, that was the reference point to which the organization related. The country strategy note was a subset, a special tool, subsumed by the national development plan. Policy framework papers, the public investment programmes developed by the World Bank with the Government, indeed

the whole panoply devised by those institutions, fell into a different category in terms of their relation to UNICEF. While it was obliged to relate to those institutions, to engage in dialogue with and interact with them, that relationship should not be merely echoing what was established in the policy framework papers. A healthy diversity of views often came out when the United Nations and the World Bank interacted constructively, and Governments benefited from that. Coordination did not mean establishing a monolithic perspective *vis-à-vis* the Government concerned, but that the Government should have available to it, in a constructive way, a diversity of views, paralleling the differences of perspective often found within Governments, between finance, planning and operational ministries. Having a diversity of views on the table from which a Government could choose in a coordinated and coherent way was part of a civil society. UNICEF, therefore, should not be either an echo or an opponent of the Bretton Woods institutions but a partner in dialogue with them.

41. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that since the whole approach was in the development phase, different models would emerge. The attitude of the country strategy note would be determined by the decision of the Government concerned and the way in which it wished the Bretton Woods instruments to be used in the process.

42. A distinction should be made between the process of preparing the country strategy note and the note itself. The preparatory process would be a fairly broad series of consultations with the recipient Government, the coordination responsibility being, by definition, tied to the Government's authority and sovereignty. The note itself, as defined in paragraph 9 (*a*) of General Assembly resolution 47/199, would be restricted to the contribution that could be made by United Nations operational activities, which, also by definition, did not include the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions. The note itself would therefore not cover them. In the process, however, depending on the situation of each country, there would be an intensive, or less intensive, connection.

43. In selecting the countries that were to participate in the Turin meeting, the position of Governments *vis-à-vis* the country strategy note would be taken very much into account. An effort would also be made to identify countries in the process of structural adjustment and that would probably help in the further exploration of that issue.

44. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said that his question had been to what extent the Bretton Woods institutions participated through their representatives in the field in drafting country strategy notes. He thought the preceding speaker had answered the question when he explained that the process preceding the drafting of a note was a very broad one, but that the note itself related exclusively to United Nations operational activities for development and did not cover the financing activities of the institutions. It was not for the present meeting to pass judgement on the substance of that question, but he wondered about the relevance, especially in countries engaged in structural adjustment, of documents which took no account of such an important aspect of the financial situation as the sources of financing and confined themselves exclusively to United Nations activities. That was perhaps a matter to be further looked into at a later stage of discussions on the notes.

45. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that a key problem in countries where there was to be a country strategy note was how to bring together the inputs of different agencies, programmes and funds, often with different cycles and without field representation. He hoped the seminar would address not only strictly procedural questions, such as the format of notes, but also the needs arising from what was a somewhat new approach for the United Nations system. Ways would have to be found of reconciling differing rules, procedures and approaches, without submerging the identity of the various bodies in an amorphous mess. He agreed with the UNICEF representative that the objective should not be to achieve a completely common position. It also seemed to him that one of the simplest ways of making progress with country strategy notes would be to make progress with the implementation of resolution 47/199 as a whole, which covered such points as the harmonization of programming cycles and procedures.

46. Ms. VOLKOFF (Canada) said that it was not clear how the Department of Development Support and Management Services would be involved in discussions of the country strategy note with a host Government, which was of course the key element in the process. With regard to comparative advantage and value added, it seemed to her that one of the great benefits of the country strategy note was the scope it offered for eliminating duplication and choosing between the comparative advantages offered by different agencies. When listening to the statement by the Department of Development Support representative, she had had some difficulty in understanding the difference between his Department's mandate and that of UNDP.

47. Mr. KAARIA (Observer for Finland) said a country strategy note could only make its full contribution where recipient countries and members of the United Nations system in the field were fully convinced of the usefulness of the procedure. The test was the value added that it could achieve. However useful the contribution of the Turin seminar might prove to be, it would not in itself be sufficient, and a more open type of seminar was also needed in the countries concerned, with participation of the national planning and finance ministries and representatives of the United Nations agencies, at which the specific utility of a country strategy note could be discussed. For such a type of seminar to succeed, background analyses would be needed of the contribution currently being made by United Nations programmes to national plans, possibly extending back over a period of five years. It was important that scope should be provided for self-criticism, and that it should be

recognized that, while progress had been made, there was room for improvement. Such a procedure would also be of assistance to the Governments concerned in drafting their strategy notes. The objective would not be to put the United Nations system in a straitjacket, and it might be that, where it was clear that certain projects did not fit into the country strategy note, they could be recognized as having a separate contribution to make. If that approach seemed to be successful in countries employing the strategy note procedure, seminars might also be organized in other countries and the advantages achieved drawn to their attention.

48. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) pointed out that one of the basic principles governing the country strategy note was that it should "focus on those key areas for which the United Nations system collaboration will make a distinct difference and where a United Nations system has an advantage" (E/1993/73, annex II, para. 4). It had, however, been made clear in the course of the discussion that the country strategy note covered only the contribution of the United Nations system and in no way reflected the contribution of the Bretton Woods institutions or of bilateral assistance, and he did not see how anyone reading such a note could possibly judge the relevance of United Nations operational activities in a given country since it was only by comparison with other contributions that the comparative advantage of the United Nations contribution could be established. On the basis of his own experience with operational activities, he believed that such notes would merely serve to justify any activities whatever undertaken by the United Nations system and to consecrate the status quo. Moreover, they would be largely irrelevant in countries where the United Nations system's financial contribution was negligible compared with total external assistance and with the national budget. That was probably why the country strategy note procedure had elicited little interest in many developing countries. It could be more useful as a programming instrument in countries where operational activities assistance was on a sufficient scale.

49. Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Development Support and Management Services), replying to the Canadian representative, said that his Department had been involved in the field for some considerable time and had been cooperating with various agencies of the United Nations system. General Assembly resolution 47/199 had stated that the country strategy note procedure must be carried out in close cooperation between all organizations of the system. His Department's mandate under the revised estimates passed by the General Assembly mentioned specifically cooperation in drawing up notes with all relevant organizations on programmes and projects relating to institutional development, including development planning, public administration, and private-sector development. The Department was, accordingly, pursuing that work in cooperation with all agencies, particularly UNDP, which provided funding for its executional functions in that cross-sectoral field.

50. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) agreed that the seminar should not concentrate narrowly on procedural issues but should also deal with substantive matters. Perhaps the entire process of developing the country strategy note needed to be explained in more detail. It was essential that the seminar should be seen as a step along the road. In his view it was of the utmost importance to proceed carefully, making sure that, before countries that showed little interest in the procedure were approached, United Nations representatives should be in a position to demonstrate clearly what was involved. That was the whole point of the Turin exercise. It was hoped that thereafter it would be possible to answer many questions that were being raised at the current meeting and that colleagues at the country level were raising. In preparation for the seminar, the Department was working on a background note, which would cover many of the points raised by the representative of Finland, including a review of programme coordination within the United Nations system, issues in the reconciliation of assistance programmes, and the like. Throughout that preparatory work the Department would be closely collaborating with its partners in the system and it hoped that the background note would form the nucleus of a follow-up to the seminar.

51. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the implementation of resolution 47/199 must be as comprehensive as possible. That would facilitate the implementation of the country strategy note, strengthen the role of the resident coordinator, and expedite progress on many other elements of the process.

52. With regard to the points made by the representative of Morocco, he believed that in a number of cases where the contribution of the United Nations system was comparatively small, it would be found that there were one or two large donors and a number of small donors. While the very large donors would go their own way, it might be possible to interest the smaller donors in entering into the coordination process with the United Nations system, thus achieving an orderly distribution of responsibilities under the leadership of the Government concerned.

53. As to scattering, he thought there was general agreement that the country strategy note should be demand-driven and should flow from the requirements of countries. The starting point must be the plans, objectives and priorities of Governments, but that did create difficulties for the smaller agencies, and the Department would take every precaution to ensure that the extremely valuable resources of technical agencies without field representation were fully taken into account.

54. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said there was a risk that too great a fuss might be made about issues that could be addressed in simple, concrete terms. That was a matter on which he would welcome an opportunity to speak at greater length at some point.

55. Dr. WASSEF (World Health Organization) said that when the Bretton Woods institutions were negotiating on health loans to countries, they began by carrying out a structural analysis. If that had not already been undertaken by WHO, the agency proceeded with the analysis after consultation with the institutions. They also supported studies on health resources and the like. Such preparatory work was a valuable contribution to the formulation of a country strategy note. The strategy note also had the great advantage of focusing on development themes which required a multisectoral approach to coordinated agency input. As far as the health sector was concerned, it was impossible for the country strategy note to cover only inputs from the United Nations system. All partners had to be taken into account. She strongly supported the UNICEF representative's remarks about the importance of dialogue and partnership.

56. Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland) said that all were agreed about the importance of convincing Governments of the usefulness of the country strategy note exercise. That, he felt, might be more effectively achieved if two or three priority areas were concentrated on. A Government might well feel confused and overwhelmed if confronted by a system comprising over 30 agencies covering a wide range of activities.

57. As to the lack of harmonization of programme cycles referred to by the representative of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, he said that, while that was indeed a factor, care must be taken that it did not become a pretext for inaction. A resident representative should not say that, in the absence of harmonization of the cycles of four programmes in a particular country, nothing could be undertaken for several more years.

58. As to the Council's report in the coming year, it was of small interest to state that a certain number of countries were following the strategy note procedure; it would be much more interesting to be told how they were setting about that task and what progress was being made. That was a matter to which the General Assembly and indeed the whole international community attached great importance. As the President of the Council had recently said, it was important that momentum should not be lost.

59. Ms. FEROUKHI (Observer for Algeria) said that paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 47/199 stressed that the country strategy note should be based on the priorities and plans of recipient countries. The countries would have no difficulty in identifying those priorities and plans based on their known needs. The question that arose was what benefit would be derived from the country strategy note by the agencies of the United Nations system. It was well known that the system was engaged in a major restructuring exercise and that resources were extremely limited. It therefore seemed to her that the real aim behind the country strategy note exercise was to provide a stimulus to expedite United Nations restructuring.

60. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that the Department of Development Support and Management Services had a unique role within the Secretariat, and its Under-Secretary-General had pointed out that it had the mandate of acting as an executing agency for programmes and projects relating to institution building and resource development. General Assembly resolution 47/199 asked governing bodies to take prompt action regarding full implementation of the resolution and document E/1993/Misc.2 and Add.1 could, she felt, have provided more details about the Department's contribution. It would be helpful if fuller information regarding action in implementation of the resolution were provided in future reports.

61. Mr. de GROOT (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that UNIDO would be greatly interested in the models developed at the Turin seminar. It expected that the country strategy note would indicate the areas of concern to a country, and provide useful guidance in regard to operational activities in the field and to agencies' headquarters for the purpose of coordinating complementary tasks such as the provision of technological information.

62. Hitherto, UNIDO had had to develop suitable methodology itself and hoped that the country strategy note would help to harmonize headquarters action with operational activities. The latter would clearly be a government, not a United Nations, document. In that regard, flexible periodicity would be desirable, and he wondered what provision was envisaged for updating and for amendments to periodicity in the light of possible changes in a Government's needs.

63. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) pointed out that a well-formulated country strategy note could provide a useful framework. Long experience in assessment missions and programme review pointed to the need for particular attention to four factors, especially at the field level. The first and most crucial factor was selectivity. In that regard, the Government's priorities were of paramount importance. The second was comprehensiveness: it must be determined which of the United Nations agencies, and bilateral partners, should be involved. The third factor was the degree of specificity. The fourth was linkage with the various agencies' funds and programmes; since the country strategy note could not possibly accomplish everything, a clear-cut linkage must be established, given the importance of mutual support roles.

64. He welcomed the Finnish representative's suggestion that the entire United Nations system should take a combined look at its contribution to a country's development goals. India was an instance of such an approach, the Joint Consultative Group on Policies organizations having recently reviewed all their programmes relating to India. The main requirement, of course, was an active dialogue between Government and agencies at the field level.

65. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said the agencies would require guidance from delegations if the country strategy note was not to remain a mere list of tasks. As he saw it, the purpose of the note was to focus on a few key priority areas; but he wondered whether that task was the Council's role or rather one for the General Assembly. The implications must be grasped: consideration of country programmes by the various agencies' governing bodies could be rather delicate. There should be some form of recognition that the country strategy note and the national strategy would not necessarily be identical in content but that, on the whole, the two should be roughly consistent. The agencies would need delegations' guidance on that point.

66. Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Development Support and Management Services) said that, owing to lack of time, it had not been possible to include an account of his Department's work in the Secretary-General's report. A detailed report had been submitted to the UNDP Governing Council with an annexed account of the department's response to General Assembly resolution 47/199. Copies of the latter could be circulated to members.

67. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said it was too soon to say how useful a country strategy note would be to the country itself. The assumption was it would enhance system-wide integration at the country level but it was too early to judge. The proposed Turin seminar would have UNDP support; that event alone, however, could not accomplish all the requisite tasks. The resident coordinators' response had been good. UNDP would do its best to give prominence to the country strategy notes; but quality of content, not the number of notes, should be the criterion. In that connection, he agreed with the views expressed by the representatives of Morocco and WHO. A country strategy note which failed to heed the financial and technical input of the World Bank would achieve little. Notes must also take into account the presence of bilateral arrangements.

68. To the useful list of factors enumerated by the representative of UNFPA, he would add a fifth, "economy". Coordination could lead to a costly diversion of funds from other tasks.

69. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that, with regard to the periodicity of a country strategy note, the matter was clear. It was up to a Government to decide when a strategy should be updated. If an agency of the United Nations system felt that an update was required, it should be able to approach the Government accordingly. It was clear from the aspects to be taken into account in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 47/199, that no rigidity was imposed, and that the intention was to establish general principles and amend actual procedures in the light of experience, with the aim of securing the collaboration of all concerned in operational activities.

70. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that he was concerned to know when the Council could discuss the serious issues raised in the President's statement at the previous meeting.

71. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said that he wondered whether the complex issues raised by the President, which touched, *inter alia*, on peace-keeping operations, were a matter for the Council to discuss.

72. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that, although the issues raised by the President were crucial, the Council should give priority to the matters it was clearly mandated to deal with pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/199.

73. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) agreed with the previous speaker. With regard to the matters raised by the President, he hoped that, on the basis of discussion and consultations, the latter would be able to produce a text on behalf of the Council, without need for a formal resolution.

74. Reverting to the current discussion, he said that a programme approach was essential if a positive impact on national development was to be achieved. The activities of the United Nations system's various components and of beneficiary Governments had not always been coordinated in the past. Attempts to link all programme activities to a cycle could be thwarted as a result of conflicts arising from individual ministries' approaches to representatives of a particular agency or agencies. In consequence the programme approach was weakened and overall national priorities were distorted.

75. Mr. MATTHEWS (United Nations Development Programme) said that the use of the term programme approach stemmed from a desire to use the United Nations system more effectively. But a recipient Government's requirements must always be the paramount criterion. Otherwise, even a well-coordinated system-wide approach would achieve little, and could even prove negative by diverting resources from other priorities. The occasional adverse effects, referred to by the representative of Morocco, of direct contacts between agencies and individual national ministries—an occurrence much less prevalent than in the past—could be avoided if a strong sense of ownership and commitment existed at the national level. The experience gained by all agencies of the system had shown such an overall national commitment to be essential. The ultimate success of any programme depended on the recipient Government.

76. The PRESIDENT said that he had noted the Council's views about the topics before it. He hoped that, at the next meeting, he could provide some guidelines on which to base its further deliberations and consider the decisions to be taken.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

28th meeting

Friday, 9 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.28

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

1. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reaffirmed that the Group and China were fully committed to the process of reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, as had been amply demonstrated since the start of consultations in 1992. The gap between the developed and developing countries was widening, leading to instability on a world scale. In the meantime the development cooperation organizations were primarily concerned with reducing the gap between rich and poor within the developing countries. Unless the United Nations complemented its political action by more vigorous action in the economic and social sectors, it was bound to disappear. It had an obligation, therefore, to engage in a restructuring of those sectors, taking into consideration the needs and interests of all countries in a balanced and equitable manner.

2. It was in that context that the Colombian delegation had proposed that the General Assembly, which had agreed to the proposal, should not take a vote on the draft resolution setting forth further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/47/L.58). The members of the Group of 77 and China had taken that initiative because consensus was essential on an issue of such importance.

3. There was, in fact, already a consensus on almost all the provisions save for the paragraph on the numerical and regional composition of the governing bodies of the Organization's funds and programmes. The drastic reduction in those bodies' size meant that the smallest countries felt themselves excluded. On the other hand, the Group of 77 and China agreed to the principles for the restructuring and revitalization of the economic and social sectors as well as the institutional reforms establishing complementarity between the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies of the funds and programmes. They also agreed to the new functions assigned to the General Assembly, the Council and the governing bodies of the development funds and programmes as well as the strengthening of the funding mechanisms for operational activities. They agreed that the governing bodies should submit reports to the Council, and through it to the General Assembly, and endorsed the methodologies and agendas proposed for the pertinent committees of the General Assembly. The Group of 77 and China hoped that a complete agreement would be reached before the conclusion of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

4. Turning to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, he noted that the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/73) already reflected some progress. However, the results of the 1992 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities were well below the target, despite the fact that the General Assembly, in resolution 47/199, had stressed the need for a substantial increase in resources commensurate with the increasing needs of the developing countries. As the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development had said, the forecasts of resources were not encouraging and UNDP had already had to undertake considerable reductions at the planning level. If the trend continued, it might impede the greater coherence in operational activities which was one of the fundamental purposes of resolution 47/199. He could not but note that the budget for peace-keeping operations was three times the whole budget of the United Nations. He also felt obliged to note that there was a profound imbalance between the financial priority given to peace operations and that accorded to the social and economic sectors. It must not be forgotten that extreme poverty was the greatest threat to world peace and security.

5. In paragraphs 7 and 36 to 40, resolution 47/199 established guidelines for coordination between recipient Governments and external assistance, as well as defining the role of the resident coordinators. The coordinators should definitely not assume political functions. It was useful to know that recipient countries had responded favourably to the strategy notes initiative, but assistance from the United Nations system must not be made conditional on the preparation of such notes. The notes must be based on the priorities and programmes of the countries themselves and be structured with a view to assuring the effective integration of assistance into the development process of the country concerned. They should

also facilitate the appraisal and evaluation of results and the continuity of assistance. Nor must the allocation of UNDP resources be subject to new conditions: there was need, therefore, to ensure that the new responsibilities entrusted to UNDP did not go beyond its mandate, since that would risk depleting its already scarce resources.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

29th meeting

Friday, 9 July 1993, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)
later: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.29

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued**):

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (*continued**)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1993/L.25. Although the text was available only in English, he hoped the Council would be prepared to adopt the conclusions.

2. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) read out the text of the draft agreed conclusions on agenda item 2 (*a*).

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the text as read out and interpreted.

4. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) proposed that the words "continued to be the basis" in point 1 of the conclusions should be amended to read "is the basis". He also proposed that the words "and its guiding principles" should be added after the reference to General Assembly resolution 46/182.

5. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) said that his delegation preferred the text as it stood.

6. Mr. SETH (India) said that, although there might be some uncertainty about the legal status of the text the Council was invited to adopt, the purpose of its message was perfectly clear. The aim was more important, for the moment, than the precise wording. A parallel was to be seen in statements issued by the President of the Security Council. If the President of the Council was able to confirm that interpretation, his delegation could support the text, although the latter was too lengthy and in some respects differed widely from the wording of Assembly resolution 46/182. He would not wish to support textual amendments at the present stage.

7. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that he hoped that amendments of substance could be avoided as delegations had not had time to study the text in detail.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, as he saw it, the intention was to convey a message, not to adopt a formal resolution.

9. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the point raised by the Indian delegation was a matter of substance, and that he, too, would like to know the legal status of the text before it was adopted. In addition, he would like the Spanish version of the text to be made available.

10. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) endorsed the Indian delegation's observations. The recommendations that the Council was to produce under General Assembly resolution 46/182 were not expected to be *ex cathedra*. The text was in the nature of a working paper rather than a resolution, and his delegation had no difficulty in accepting it as it stood.

11. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that the idea of simply adopting a message was too vague. Any conclusion emanating from the Council must be in the form of an agreed text. That was particularly so in the present case, when, pursuant to resolution 46/182, the text was intended to have effect throughout the United Nations system. If the Council adopted the text, the question of its legal status could be set aside for the time being and legal advice sought later, if necessary.

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* Resumed from the 21st meeting.

12. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) said that his previous comment related only to proposed amendments to the text, not to the document's legal status, a matter that could be considered elsewhere. The important point was that the members of the Council should be in agreement about the message to be conveyed. Questions of interpreting the wording could follow the adoption of the conclusions. In a spirit of cooperation, he would be prepared to accept the substitution of "is" for "continued to be", and could support the text as so amended.

13. Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) said that the question of the document's legal status had to be taken into account, particularly since it related to obligations in compliance with which the various agencies would be expected to report. Perhaps the matter should be discussed in the Bureau.

14. The PRESIDENT said that the representative of Chile had raised a valid point. He himself found it hard to draw a parallel with the status of declarations made by the President of the Security Council, since the draft conclusions under discussion did contain operative recommendations. The matter would be referred, therefore, to the Organization's legal services, and the Indian delegation's observations would appear in the summary record of the meeting.

15. Nevertheless, the operational value of the text was clear enough. He was convinced that the conclusions would help to improve the United Nations system, enhance inter-agency relations and clarify the system's preparedness and response in respect of natural disasters and emergencies—a view which, he felt sure, the agency heads shared.

16. He invited the Council to adopt the draft agreed conclusions, on the understanding that, in point 1 of the conclusions the words "continues to be" were replaced by "is".

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Mr. Sliptchenko, Vice-President, took the chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued*)

17. Mr. NGONGI (World Food Programme) said that country level coordination was of capital importance. As the Programme's Executive Director had said, WFP fully supported the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. It agreed that the resident coordinator system would continue to be the responsibility of UNDP and welcomed the steps being taken to broaden the selection process so as to draw on a larger pool of persons qualified for appointment as resident coordinator. Much progress had been made in discussions on those matters in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and he hoped that a report would be submitted to the Council in the near future.

18. The Executive Director had also said that it was her responsibility to bring to the attention of Member States potential difficulties in the way of implementing resolution 47/199. There was increased demand upon organizations to enter into much more detailed, coordinated and policy-oriented dialogues with recipient Governments in order to ensure that all programmes and activities were integrated into national plans and programmes, in close collaboration with other members of the United Nations system, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. But such a system required that individual programmes and organizations should have adequate representation at country level. WFP did not have any such independent representation, and, in pursuit of the new policies, it was reasonable to expect that it should have at its disposal persons with detailed knowledge of its programmes to enter into dialogue at the country policy level, and, in WFP's view, that could not be achieved by asking individuals, however gifted, to assume a multitude of responsibilities. What was needed was knowledgeable persons who could also provide a link between the country level teams and the headquarters of the organizations concerned.

19. The recent discussion on the continuum between emergency humanitarian assistance and development had highlighted the importance of linking the two, and he believed that WFP was uniquely placed to play such a linking role. But if such linkages were to be effective, it was important that there should be a single representative responsible for dealing with both types of assistance. It was very difficult for a headquarters organization to delegate authority and decentralize through the field level while preserving accountability. The whole system of implementation at the country level was the key to the implementation of various aspects of resolution 47/199.

20. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) said that UNFPA fully supported the resident coordinator system and the current arrangements for it to be managed by UNDP. In further strengthening and coordinating the new field level activities involved in such matters as the country strategy note, the programme approach, decentralization, and delegation of authority, UNFPA wished its country director to be its representative in all countries where country directors were designated, but, where that was not the case, wished the UNDP resident representative to represent UNFPA as well. That was the arrangement UNFPA had been seeking and the UNDP representative had stated that UNDP hoped that there would soon be UNFPA representatives.

21. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) noted that in annex IV to the report (E/1993/73), paragraph 6 (*b*) stated that Governments should assume overall accountability for all programmes and projects, and paragraph 6 (*m*) indicated that all programmes and projects

only partly managed by a national agency or institution should become the total responsibility of national agencies. It would, therefore, seem that the principles basically required the transfer of all responsibility from the United Nations system to national Governments and did not seem to envisage any United Nations agency execution, but only implementation. His delegation accepted that national execution should be the norm, but not the only way. He wondered whether paragraph 6 (*b*) was not going too far at the present stage. A number of other delegations, including that of China, had urged that care must be taken not to push the process too far and too fast. Paragraph 6 (*m*) seemed to go even further. Weight should surely also be given to the sustainability of projects, which would not appear to be secured if they were transferred to people who were ill-prepared to deal with them.

22. With regard to paragraph 46 of the report (E/1993/73), which stated that the common framework did not necessarily apply to UNICEF, WFP and IFAD, he asked why those three organizations should be excluded from the framework, which surely should apply to all or none. Would it not be preferable to amend the framework, if necessary, broadening the principles, so as to bring in all organizations?

23. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that recipient countries had accumulated enough experience to assume responsibility for executing United Nations projects, most of which were concerned with technical assistance, some being on a relatively small scale. Countries should be given the option of bringing in outside assistance if they judged that they were not in a position to execute a project themselves, but the norm should be national execution, which incidentally saved money.

24. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada) said his delegation wished to have an opportunity to speak on the subject of the resident coordinator system, especially with reference to paragraphs 40 and 41 of resolution 47/199.

25. Mr. DIECKERT (Germany) said that his delegation strongly favoured national execution as the norm, but it should be seen in the light of the country programming approach. He believed the United Nations agencies should concentrate their efforts on the transfer of management skills and techniques required for the execution of programmes and projects. He wondered why the list in paragraph 6 (*k*) of annex IV of the report (E/1993/73) did not mention the use of an evaluation system as a management instrument.

26. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) said that he was somewhat concerned about the United Kingdom representative's observations. Any departure from the principle of permanent, total commitment to execution by national agencies—which would, after all, be responsible for continuing the programmes and projects once the technical cooperation agencies had withdrawn—was inconceivable. The worst thing that could happen to a third-world country was to be left without follow-up capacity. It was a mistake to think of the technical cooperation agencies as being the sole repositories of truth. They should concentrate on building up local capacity and not repeat the mistakes of the years when technical cooperation was wasted effort because of its failure to do that.

27. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that there seemed to be some misunderstanding. He had said nothing that was not entirely in accord with the points made by the Colombian representative. He had merely sought to emphasize, as General Assembly resolution 47/199 did, that national execution should be the norm for programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system, and that it was for recipient countries to determine their capacity to execute them, but that those countries should not be forced to take on responsibility for national execution before they felt ready to do so. He also fully endorsed the emphasis in paragraph 18 of the resolution on the need to give increased priority to assisting countries in enhancing their capacity. He did not believe there was any difference between his views and those of the Colombian representative. It was the report (E/1993/73) which seemed to have lost sight of the necessity for a staged approach. National execution had to proceed at the speed of the recipient countries, which should at the same time be encouraged to apply it and regard it as the norm.

28. Mr. WANG Xinggen (China) said his delegation attached great importance to national execution, but it had to be borne in mind that conditions varied considerably from one developing country to another, and it would be a mistake to force all to apply that norm. The United Nations system should do all it could to help recipient countries build their capacity to undertake national execution.

29. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that in annex IV to the report (E/1993/73), a number of objectives of national execution were mentioned, including enhancement of capacity-building, self-reliance and sustainability, and the internalizing of external inputs, and in paragraph 4 national execution was defined as a cooperative, operational arrangement. In paragraph 6 (*g*) it was, however, stated that all programmes and projects should be appraised by the external funding organization with the assistance of the relevant technical agency. Did that mean there would be no involvement at all of Governments or local non-governmental organizations, which might have gained experience from the exercise? That aspect seemed particularly important because paragraph 6 (*i*) stated that regard should be paid to the existence and availability of the technical, administrative and managerial capacities of the recipient Government. She would welcome clarification of the role of Governments in programme and project appraisal.

30. Mrs. WYRSCH (Observer for Switzerland) said that national execution was no longer a novel concept, and all agencies had had experience with it. She would be interested to hear what factors had been identified as

making for success, what problems had been encountered, and in what ways United Nations representatives at the country level were able to help recipient Governments carry out national execution. One particular advantage of that procedure was that it lightened the workload for all concerned, and enhanced the impact and sustainability of assistance.

31. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that while the promotion of national execution should be pursued in a pragmatic manner, as indicated in paragraph 6 (*a*) of the guiding principles, it was essential to ensure that the national Government took the decision to assume overall accountability. Paragraph 6 (*m*) used qualifying phrases, such as "as far as possible", for the progressive transfer of responsibilities, but it was important that national execution should be maintained as a firm norm. The hard core of international operational activities was capacity-building, and that was impossible without national execution. He believed that effective project implementation, as well as programme implementation, was extremely difficult without the significant involvement of national Governments, a point which was emphasized in the first paragraph of annex IV. The best technical assistance was that which rendered itself redundant in the shortest possible time.

32. There was enough leeway in the guiding principles to allow for differences in conditions between countries and the important point was that Governments themselves should determine the pace at which transfer should take place. Everything else should be interpreted in the light of what was stated in paragraph 6 (*a*).

33. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said, in response to the suggestion made earlier that national salaries might be higher than international salaries, that in 99 per cent of cases they were not. He would like to know exactly what elements were involved in national execution. If that was made clear, it would be possible to judge what could be done by the country concerned and what needed to be done by somebody else.

34. Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) said that the reason why the description of the roles of the technical agencies in the national execution context did not apply to UNICEF was that, for the past 20 years or more, its programme had not included any agency or any international execution. Moreover, since it did not bundle assistance by projects, there were no UNICEF projects to be executed. UNICEF believed in focusing on programme goals and then bundling assistance round those goals, in the form either of cash for local expenditure by the Government or of supplies, and possibly of international technical assistance, which accounted for about 15 per cent of the whole.

35. Mr. RAO (United Nations Population Fund) said that capacity-building for national execution would involve strengthening the capacity of the countries concerned in a number of directions. In the case of UNFPA, it would involve capacity for policy and programme formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation in the field of population. UNFPA's own guidelines, as approved by its governing body in 1992, covered two types of capacity-building: one for substantive and technical matters and one for administrative and management aspects. The administrative and management aspects would be in the area of procurement, logistics, audit, and so forth. For substantive and technical matters, capacity-building meant the enhancement of technical expertise in various areas. In the case of population, the types of specific capacity that needed to be built were in maternal and child health, family planning, and information, education and communication. Essentially, the strategy for building such capacity would involve technical assistance in the form of various options, including the provision of international experts, regional experts and national experts. It would also involve field-level training in the form of national workshops to help build capacity in financing, audit and so on. A third aspect of capacity-building was institutional development, which was also a vital part of the broad strategy. A wide range of things were thus required for a country to be self-reliant and capable of national execution. Currently, some 28 per cent of UNFPA's programme activities were nationally executed.

36. Mr. NGONGI (World Food Programme) said that WFP had been excluded from the common framework of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions on the same grounds as UNICEF: namely, that it did not implement technical assistance projects. The framework had been established primarily for the technical agencies. Unlike UNICEF, however, WFP had projects, but all of them were nationally executed. Modalities had been worked out for assisting countries that had particular difficulties in regard to execution, especially the least developed countries, in the area of meeting the costs of logistics, the establishment of management systems for food handling, or project preparation. WFP did not pay the salaries of national staff, all of which were paid by the Governments implementing the projects. WFP did, however, pay some of the costs relating to monitoring and evaluation. As far as appraisal, mentioned in paragraph 6 (*g*), was concerned, all WFP project evaluation measures were carried out in collaboration with Governments and with all the relevant technical agencies providing technical assistance. All WFP projects were prepared in collaboration with the technical agencies, in particular FAO, WHO, ILO and UNESCO.

37. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) said, in regard to the guiding principles in annex IV of the report (E/1993/73), that it was important to distinguish what kind of accountability was referred to in paragraph 6 (*b*). In general, a Government's accountability was to its constituents. If the paragraph referred to accountability for the success of programmes and projects, in many respects the funds and programmes which were partners in implementation should also be accountable. They should also

be accountable to the Council itself, in terms of the success of the project.

38. In connection with paragraph 6 (*g*), which said that all programmes and projects should be appraised by the external funding organization, he asked whether national structures could also be involved in the appraisal. He noted that in paragraph 6 (*i*), the meaning of the phrase "regard should be paid" was unclear. The general emphasis of the guiding principles was that host Governments should be relied on more and more to provide expertise. Paragraph 6 (*o*) referred to the enhancement of self-reliance. There were some cases, however, where the strengthening of national institutional capacity required external assistance and the reference to the efforts of "Governments themselves" seemed not to reflect that possibility. He felt that the last sentence of the paragraph was also unclear as it stood.

39. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that UNDP was a relative latecomer to national execution, when compared with UNICEF or WFP. He would therefore limit himself to the very recent experience of UNDP. Under decision 91/27 of the Governing Council, UNDP had been instructed to accelerate its movement towards national execution as its contribution to the building of self-reliance among recipient countries. As a result, the amount of UNDP resources spent on national execution had risen from about 10 per cent to over 30 per cent and would shortly be 40 per cent. Under the UNDP guidelines, execution was separated from implementation and there was thus the possibility of a multiplicity of combinations of the two principles, as the current menu of projects already exemplified. In the case of UNDP, therefore, General Assembly resolution 47/199, which had been adopted after decision 91/27, merely ratified what had already been adopted by the Governing Council. National execution was to be the norm, with the choice being made by the recipient Government.

40. For example, the position adopted by China in regard to the role of UNDP in that country was that national execution was selected whenever it emerged from the programming dialogue between China and UNDP that that was the best solution for the project in question. When the conclusion reached through the joint dialogue was that national execution was not applicable, China and UNDP made arrangements for international agency execution. There were cases of national execution in China where an international agency, such as UNIDO, would play a very clear implementing role, in agreement with the Chinese Government and with UNDP as funding agency. On the other hand, there were cases of international execution where a domestic Chinese institution would implement aspects of the project. He emphasized that, as far as UNDP was concerned, a programme could not be anything other than nationally executed. At that level, UNDP was engaging its cooperation in the context of clearly-established, well-defined government programmes which it approached through funding and/or cooperation.

41. He regretted that he was not very familiar with the guiding principles set out in annex IV of the report (E/1993/73). They had emerged out of discussions in CCPOQ, in which UNDP had participated, but only as one voice among many. Guiding principles worked out in that way tended to be rather general. In the case of UNDP, the Governing Council had reviewed and endorsed guidelines for national execution and national implementation which were much more concrete. Thus, although a programme must, by definition, be nationally executed, it might well be that, in part, it would be implemented by an international agency.

42. In response to the question by the observer for Switzerland, he gave, as an example of concrete action, the case of Bolivia, which was going through a very significant scheme for privatization and the modernization of the machinery of State, with great support from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Government of Bolivia had decided to build a capacity for procurement by the public sector and had asked UNDP for assistance in doing so. It was agreed at the beginning that UNDP would execute the project, and that after two years it would be turned over to the Government. Capacity having been built, to the satisfaction of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, but foremost to the satisfaction of the Bolivian Government, the role of UNDP had changed immediately. Currently, a great deal of training was being provided in that area to UNDP staff.

43. When it came to assessing a project for national execution, the assessment was basically undertaken at country level and started by involving the Government itself in assessing its own capacities. In that connection, the UNDP resident representative was not only instructed to secure local consultants, including non-governmental organizations, in making the assessment but provided with the financial means to do so. He did not wish to put too much stress on differences of wording, but he would remind the Council that each of the agencies had its own guidelines approved by its own governing body on how it should operate.

44. The representative of Bangladesh had been quite correct in saying that, obviously, if a Government felt that it could implement a project, and if, in the dialogue with UNDP, the conclusion was reached that the capacity was there, there was no reason why the Government should not implement it. Whether it wished to do so in full should again be the result of dialogue. In that connection, he said that he knew of concrete instances where national implementation was more expensive than international implementation because the salaries paid locally were higher than international salaries. One or two other countries were also moving in that direction. The distortion of local prices resulting from artificial parities could at times produce such a situation.

45. Mr. MATTHEWS (United Nations Development Programme), referring to the representative of Malaysia's point regarding paragraph 6 (*o*) of annex IV of the

report (E/1993/73), said that the sentence was intended to mean that where the United Nations system took measures to supplement national capacities, the measures should be taken on a short-term basis and should not become a crutch. There should be an agreed programme to phase out the external component and progressively nationalize the entire effort.

46. Similar considerations applied to the appraisal of projects. In that connection, under Assembly resolution 47/199, Governments were primarily responsible for determining their capacity to execute programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system. Where Governments wished to have assistance in carrying out that responsibility, the system was prepared to provide it, without prejudice to the principle laid down in the resolution.

47. Mr. STILLMAN (Department of Development Support and Management Services) said that the new support-costs system under which many agencies receiving funds from UNDP were now operating was an important element in the national execution enterprise. The establishment of technical support services at the programme and project level facilitated and supported national execution.

48. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that even in the case of national execution of a project, the resident coordinator might arrange matters in such a way as to ensure that the international agencies would still be retained to perform the work.

49. Mr. CARMICHAEL (Canada), referring to Assembly resolution 47/199, paragraphs 40 and 41, asked why the field-level committees were not yet a reality. He wondered what steps were being taken to establish them and make them operational.

50. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) asked whether the working group referred to in paragraph 71 of the report (E/1993/73) had met and whether it had begun to tackle the matters listed in subparagraphs (*a*) to (*g*).

51. Mr. FILHO (Brazil) said his delegation fully appreciated the complexity of implementing Assembly resolution 47/199, particularly with regard to strengthening the resident coordinator system. The provisions of paragraphs 36 to 41 of the resolution were of great importance and could make a significant contribution to cost-effectiveness and national capacity-building. He wondered whether that aspect had been discussed within the system.

52. The establishment of field-level committees could significantly strengthen coordination at that level in a number of countries. In that connection, his delegation attached particular importance to paragraph 38 (*b*) of resolution 47/199. It interpreted the fact that the matter had not been mentioned during the discussion to mean that it was already current practice and would be maintained.

53. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said, in response to the United Kingdom representative, that the Working Group had met twice.

54. Quite a few field committees existed already and he had recently written to resident coordinators, drawing their attention to the question. His Department expected to receive the annual progress reports from resident coordinators within a few months. It should be noted that the resident coordinators' function would be defined on the basis of paragraphs 44 and 47 of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

55. The field-level committees should be established where it was clear that they would be useful. In many cases informal coordination mechanisms already existed.

56. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that in the country team training programme at the International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin, considerable stress had been placed on the desirability of setting up full committees. Even before the adoption of Assembly resolution 47/199, the issue had been an important item on the Centre's agenda.

57. Mrs. VOLKOFF (Canada) wished to know how the system was modifying its appraisal of candidates for appointment as resident coordinators, who was making the appraisal and what steps were being taken to make the process of selection a transparent one.

58. Mr. FILHO (Brazil) asked whether there had been any movement on the question of mobilizing support from outside the United Nations system.

59. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that in Latin America the resident coordinator mechanism had served to mobilize more resources from outside the system. As a result of the transfer of resources in favour of the least developed countries, the net flow of UNDP resources to Latin American middle-income countries had been significantly reduced. That had generated the need to develop an innovative mechanism for mobilizing additional resources. At present, the situation was that for every UNDP dollar, $20 were assigned to the Programme's resources from other sources.

60. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the appointment of a person as resident coordinator was undertaken only after consultation with the agencies, particularly those involved in field-level implementation. If there were problems, a discussion was generally held between those concerned and UNDP.

61. An effort was being made to widen the pool from which the selection took place. That was an ongoing exercise and he hoped that it would continue to improve the process.

62. Dr. WASSEF (World Health Organization), referring to the question of mobilizing resources and technical expertise from both outside and inside the system, said that her organization accorded priority to national and regional expertise.

63. With regard to technical cooperation among developing countries, WHO used the expertise of neighbouring countries or those with similar problems. WHO made use of the expertise not only of people but also of institutions. It had a worldwide system of centres which collaborated with it on many issues.

64. Mr. GÓMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that at present, 45 per cent of his organization's professional staff had agency experience. UNDP recognized the need to widen the pool and had been circulating vacancy notices to its partners.

65. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that a country programme committee had been operating in his country for two years and functioned well. It included government coordinators and a resident representative. Members of such committees should be supported and given some training. In that connection, he said that some financial support might be necessary.

66. Mr. HAMBURGER (Observer for the Netherlands) said that it was essential for the United Nations system to adopt an innovative, cost-effective and unified approach in implementing General Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular with regard to new recipient countries.

67. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), said that the informal meetings of the Council had been valuable and would be very helpful in implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

30th meeting

Monday, 12 July 1993, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.30

AGENDA ITEM 12

Statistical and cartographic questions:

(*a*) Statistics

(*b*) Cartography

1. Mr. SELTZER (Director, Statistical Division), introducing the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/1993/26), said that, at that session, the Commission had begun by adopting a revised System of National Accounts, which was a basic tool for organizing and analysing economic statistics. In a way, the new system established a virtually universal language for economic dialogue among countries and groups of countries. It was the culmination of 10 years of effort by international statistical organizations, countries, non-governmental organizations and many experts and the work had been coordinated by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The revised SNA updated, clarified and simplified the previous one, was more in harmony with other international statistical standards and was applicable to all countries. It provided a fuller picture of the resources at an economy's disposal, laid the groundwork for dealing with interaction between the economy and the environment and elaborated an analytical approach to the assessment of poverty. The Statistical Commission was submitting draft resolution I (ibid., chapter I) for adoption by the Economic and Social Council in which it recommended that Member States should use the revised SNA, agreed that the United Nations regional commissions should play a major role in its implementation and requested the mobilization of resources for its implementation, including support for Member States and the regional commissions.

2. The Statistical Commission had also adopted an action plan identifying 19 measures for strengthening international statistical cooperation that were the result of a two-year review which included input from an independent review group composed of the directors of several national statistical services.

3. The Statistical Commission was also submitting for adoption by the Council draft resolution II (ibid.), which proposed that a special session of the Commission should be held in 1994 to review the progress made in implementing the decisions for strengthening the international statistical system in general and to monitor progress made in implementing the revised SNA; and draft decision III, which proposed that the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination should meet in 1994 and 1995 and from 13 to 16 September 1993 at Geneva.

4. The Statistical Commission had also taken action in other important areas. For example, it had adopted a draft recommendation on tourism statistics and endorsed the revised International Classification of Status in Employment adopted by the Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians. It had discussed and endorsed further work on the development and harmonization of several areas of statistics. In addition, it had urged that resources allocated to technical cooperation related to national accounts and other types of economic statistics should be increased because a reduction of those resources might have disastrous consequences for the long-term economic and social development of the recipient countries.

5. The Statistical Commission had requested further consideration of the ECE decision adopting fundamental principles of official statistics in the ECE region, with a view to preparing a draft set of principles at the world level.

6. Mr. KISELEV (Russian Federation) said that he attached great importance to cooperation in the field of statistics, a key element of cooperation for development, which should speed up Russia's integration into the world economy. In particular, the revision of the SNA was an excellent example of how the United Nations could assist in improving statistical services throughout the world: the revised system offered a theoretical framework which all countries could usefully adopt because it enabled them to obtain reliable information on their economies and provided them with the means of coordinating economic progress and environmental protection. The new version of the SNA was of particular importance to the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which were thus assured of the possibility of improving the quality of their statistics and of making them compatible with the other work being done at the international level. He earnestly hoped that the Council would adopt draft resolution I of the Statistical Commission without reservations.

7. The delegation of the Russian Federation also welcomed the measures adopted by the Commission to strengthen technical cooperation in many other areas of statistics, all the more so as the countries that planned to implement the revised SNA were undoubtedly in need of technical assistance. Like the Commission, the Russian Federation was pleased at the spirit of cooperation that had developed between the National Household Survey Capability Programme and the Living Standards Measurement Study and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment programme.

8. The Russian Federation was also in favour of the establishment of six task forces as mechanisms for developing a more integrated work programme among international organizations in certain subject areas: national accounts; industrial and construction statistics; international trade statistics; finance statistics; price statistics; and environment statistics, the latter being of particular importance because they should be especially useful to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

9. The Russian Federation was not certain of the need to hold a special session of the Commission in 1994 to review progress made in the implementation of decisions for strengthening the international statistical system and in the implementation of the revised SNA. Those questions could be considered by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, which could simply meet once a year. However, his delegation would not formally object to the convening of such a special session if it was really indispensable, provided, however, that it could be held within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995.

10. Mr. YUNG (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) recalled that the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had discussed the problem of the naming of the sea lying between Korea and Japan which was now called by different names: "the East Sea of Korea" by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; "the East Sea" by the Republic of Korea; and "the Sea of Japan" by Japan. Since ancient times, Korea had called it "the East Sea". In the seventeenth century, European geographers had called it "the Sea of Korea", "the East Sea" or "the Oriental Sea" and, from the early eighteenth century until the mid-nineteenth century, it had been called "the Sea of Korea". The name "Sea of Japan" had come later because it dated back to the time of Japanese colonial domination over Korea and, today, was therefore nothing more than a vestige of the past. Japan was nevertheless claiming that the name "Sea of Japan" was now internationally recognized. Several regional and international conferences had already had to consider the injustice being committed by Japan in objecting to a renaming of the sea and, in particular, the participants in the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had advocated a negotiated settlement of the dispute. His delegation therefore urged Japan, as part of the obliteration of its colonial past, to agree that "the Sea of Korea" should be given back its rightful name and hoped that the United Nations would facilitate the early start of negotiations on that issue.

11. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that, in the Polish economy, which was trying to adjust to the requirements of a market economy, international cooperation in the

field of statistics continued to play a very important role, especially through two bodies, the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ECE Conference of European Statisticians. The statistics worked out according to the standards and principles advocated by those two bodies gave the development partners and foreign investors the necessary transparency and information.

12. The revised version of the system of national accounts provided a clearer picture of the resources at an economy's disposal and an opportunity for a more coherent analysis of interactions between the economy and the environment. The United Nations regional commissions could and should take an active part in the implementation of the SNA. The regional commissions should also contribute more fully to the development and coordination of the global statistical system in the context of the decentralization of statistical cooperation, which would form part of the restructuring and revitalization of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

13. With regard to the activities of the ECE Conference of European Statisticians, the Central Statistical Office of Poland had taken part in various meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops at which it had described the Polish experience. It was noteworthy that, in 1992, the Conference had celebrated its fortieth anniversary, whose theme had been "the role of statistics in the democratic process at the end of the twentieth century". It had been emphasized that the Conference was oriented towards facilitating democratic changes in Central and Eastern Europe and that cooperation with the countries in transition, in particular, was one of its priorities. The Polish delegation was also very pleased that the Statistical Commission had decided to study further the fundamental principles of official statistics in the ECE region with a view to the formulation of a set of principles at the world level.

14. Mr. ELYSSEEV (Ukraine) paid tribute to the amount of work accomplished by the Statistical Commission over the past two years and, in particular, congratulated it on the revised version of the SNA which it had adopted. The Commission should now begin work on guidelines for the implementation of that revised version and on the technical assistance to be provided in that area. The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination should coordinate the implementation of the revised SNA.

15. When changing their economic system, the countries in transition had to carry out a radical reform of their statistical services; as a first step, they had to use an international framework applicable to national accounts and balances and the idea of applying the SNA came to them quite naturally. However, progress in adapting to the SNA was very slow and Ukraine was counting on the assistance of the international community in that regard. It sincerely hoped that the international community realized how important it was to assist the countries in transition and the developing countries in general.

16. In the present case, meetings of working groups and symposia such as the one organized in Minsk in April 1993 were very useful. His delegation therefore supported the idea of enhancing the national dimension of the work of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and of establishing six task forces to develop a more integrated work programme among international organizations (draft resolution II of the Statistical Commission). In the implementation of those recommendations, however, care should be taken not to exceed the budget limit set by the General Assembly. In international accounting, caution was essential and cooperation with the competent national departments should be intensified.

17. The Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had been profitable. Ukraine fully endorsed the decisions adopted, but reminded the Council members that geographical names derived from the national will. Consequently, in view of the many changes that had recently been made following political upheavals, the United Nations would do well to organize an international conference on the use of old historical names. Such an initiative would, in any event, make it easier to develop a standard formula to be applied to different situations.

18. Mr. VENERA (Observer for the Czech Republic) said that his country unconditionally supported the efforts being made by the Statistical Division and the Statistical Commission of the United Nations to promote international statistical cooperation, especially in respect of the latest revision of the SNA and methodology and standardization, despite the difficulties being experienced by the Division. The Commission should cooperate closely with the competent ECE and OECD departments, which were doing useful work in the field of statistics.

19. The Czech Republic, which was a permanent member of the Statistical Commission, tried to comply with all international statistical requirements. There were plans for the execution of 22 projects to bring the Czech statistical system into line with international standards, to adapt it to a market economy, particularly with regard to price statistics and international trade statistics, and to apply international economic classifications. Some developing countries could no doubt usefully adopt that procedure. The Czech Republic, for its part, was prepared to cooperate in that area through the Statistical Commission, ILO and the Conference of European Statisticians.

20. Ms. PATTHEY (Observer for Switzerland) said that her country, which had chaired the Conference of European Statisticians from 1989 to 1993, attached great importance to the work of the Statistical Commission and, in particular, the draft resolutions and decisions formulated by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session. Those proposals should make it possible to ensure better coordination among the international organizations working actively in that field and to change and

strengthen the operation and the work structures of the Commission itself.

21. The adoption of the revised SNA, which was the subject of draft resolution I, brought an end to 15 years of hard work. IMF and OECD, in particular, welcomed the results of that revision, which undoubtedly provided innovative elements and a better basis for harmonizing information and macroeconomic indicators at the world level. In view of the growing interdependence of national economies, the international community intended, by adopting the revised SNA, to have a more effective tool for assessing national, regional and world economic problems. The Commission and the regional bodies should now do everything in their power to ensure that the new system was speedily adopted by all countries.

22. Draft resolution II and draft decision III proposed a set of measures for changing and strengthening the structure and operation of the international statistical system. The Commission envisaged meeting once a year instead of every two years, out of a concern for efficiency and continuity, and draft resolution II proposed that a special session of the Committee should be held in 1994. In order to monitor the progress made in implementing its recommendations on a more regular basis, the Commission had to be able to adopt the proposed new schedule of meetings more rapidly and, consequently, meet as early as 1994. In draft decision III, it was proposed that the role of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination should be strengthened by immediately changing the schedule of its meetings. Switzerland was in favour of that initiative, which aimed at providing better information for and ensuring better preparation of the meetings of the Commission.

23. In conclusion, the Swiss delegation especially welcomed the decision adopted by ECE on fundamental principles of official statistics in the ECE region, which reflected the support of all member States for the values and principles of a democratic society. The Commission had decided to propose that all United Nations regional bodies should consider the possibility of adopting those principles. Although that decision was not being submitted to the Council for adoption, it was of crucial importance for the future of the world statistical system.

24. Mr. BORCHARD (Germany) said that he supported the draft resolutions and decisions which had been proposed by the Commission and would facilitate its future activities and, in particular, the implementation of the revised SNA. Furthermore, international statistical cooperation had to be strengthened, not only within the framework of the Commission but also at the bilateral level. It was in that spirit that his country's statistical services were cooperating with those in other countries.

25. Mr. VENCEL (Observer for Slovakia) said that his country, which had taken part as an observer in the work of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, endorsed the Commission's conclusions and, in particular, draft resolutions I and II, which should help to improve statistical cooperation. The revised SNA dealt with in draft resolution I was particularly interesting and his country's statistical services were working to set up a new system of national accounts in accordance with that revision. His delegation also supported draft resolution II and draft decision III.

26. Mr. SHINODA (Japan) said that his delegation had been surprised to learn that very day of document E/1993/99 on the naming of the "Sea of Japan". The document was biased and might give rise to misunderstandings. Japan's position was quite clear: the name "Sea of Japan" was unanimously recognized and had been for a long time. The use of any other name would only create confusion.

27. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) recalled that at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, his delegation had emphasized that the question raised by the observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea required further consideration. It would therefore be desirable for that consideration to begin shortly, as that observer had suggested.

28. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) thanked the Director of the Statistical Division for submitting the report to the Commission, of which his country was a member.

29. The report referred, *inter alia*, to development indicators. His delegation wished to know what follow-up action had been taken on the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/94 requesting the Secretary-General to consider convening another high-level meeting of experts, such as the one held in Rabat in April 1991, to examine the progress achieved in respect of development indicators and to deal with the question in greater detail. Was it only for financial reasons that the meeting had not been organized?

30. Mr. SELTZER (Director, Statistical Division) thanked all the speakers for their comments.

31. With regard to the periodicity of the meetings of the Statistical Commission, to which the representative of the Russian Federation and the observer for Switzerland had referred, he explained that a change had in fact been considered, but that no decision had been taken. The Commission was therefore submitting a draft resolution that provided only for the holding of a special session, for various reasons set out in the proposed text. The Commission had noted that the financial implications of the resolution in question should be kept within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995. It had none the less also pointed out how vital it was for its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination to hold annual meetings. If the draft decision to that effect was not adopted, the programmes might well suffer as a result.

32. In reply to the representative of Morocco, he said that the efforts made to obtain financing for a high-level

meeting of experts on development indicators had not been successful. The problem was, however, not only financial and it was also vital that the technical aspects of the meeting should be carefully prepared. The current preparations for the World Summit for Social Development should offer opportunities for cooperation along those lines between the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the Statistical Division, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. Once the technical basis had been drawn up, it would certainly be easier to organize the meeting of experts.

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution I entitled "1993 System of National Accounts" contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/1993/26).

It was so decided [resolution 1993/5].

34. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the members of the Council to paragraph 2 of Commission draft resolution II, entitled "Special session of the Statistical Commission", where it was stipulated that the provisions of the present resolution should be implemented within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995.

35. Mr. KISELEV (Russian Federation) said that, in the light of the explanations given, his delegation could support draft resolution II.

36. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II proposed by the Commission.

It was so decided [resolution 1993/6].

37. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt Commission draft decisions I, II and III concerning, respectively, the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session, the provisional agenda and documentation for the special session of the Statistical Commission in 1994 and the strengthening of international statistical cooperation.

It was so decided [decision 1993/222].

38. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General on the Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/1993/39).

It was so decided [decision 1993/225].

39. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/1993/21 and Corr.1).

It was so decided [decision 1993/226].

40. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed its consideration of agenda item 12.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

31st meeting

Tuesday, 13 July 1993, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.31

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions:

(*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies

(*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics

(*d*) Question of a United Nations year for tolerance

(*e*) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

Promotion of press freedom in the world

1. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Joint Inspection Unit report on the United Nations common system (E/1993/119), the comments of ACC on the subject (E/1993/119/Add.1), the Secretary-General's note (E/1993/ 66) and the note by the Secretariat on the com-

mon system (E/1993/83) should be considered at a brief resumed session.

It was so decided [decision 1993/227].

2. Mr. SREENIVASAN (Chairman, Committee for Programme and Coordination) said that at the first part of its thirty-third session, CPC had focused its attention on five reports on evaluation (A/48/16, part I). Because of the late issue of the documentation under the coordination questions item, it had not been in a position to review adequately the ACC report for 1992 (E/1993/81). It had, however, also reviewed the JIU report on United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions (E/1993/18 and Add.1).

3. At the opening of the CPC debate on coordination questions, there had been a lively exchange of views on the timeliness and quality of the documentation, many delegations expressing the view that, given the delay and inadequacy of the documentation, CPC was not in a position to hold a substantive debate and make recommendations or to commend the ACC report to the Council. Members had, however, expressed appreciation of a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development on the activities of ACC. It had been suggested that, in the absence of a substantive debate, CPC should discuss its own role in the area of coordination, particularly *vis-à-vis* the Council.

4. CPC had reaffirmed the validity of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and confirmed its role in assisting the Council and the Assembly in coordination of the system. It had requested ACC to ensure that in future up-to-date, appropriate and timely documentation would be provided to it and has been particularly harsh about inaccuracies and discrepancies in various sections of the report which had, he understood, subsequently been corrected. While appreciating the Secretary-General's efforts to streamline the machinery of ACC and improve the Committee's methods of work, CPC stressed that all system-wide activities by ACC subsidiary bodies that had been abolished, particularly those relating to science and technology for development, new and renewable sources of energy and the least developed countries should continue to be coordinated by the new subsidiary machinery.

5. At the thirty-first session, it had been suggested that a review of the role of CPC with regard to preparation and follow-up of the coordination segment should be undertaken by the Council, which might also wish to assess the role of the joint CPC/ACC meetings. Some members of CPC had questioned the usefulness of those meetings, which seemed to be de facto superseded by the coordination segment of the Council's session. In the meantime, CPC again stressed the need for adequate preparation for the twenty-seventh series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC and had decided to revert to the preparation for them during the second part of its thirty-third session.

6. Under the item on programme questions, the Committee had recommended to the General Assembly four topics for future in-depth evaluation, with the following schedule: 1994 social development; 1995 peace-keeping operations—the start-up phase; 1996 Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development; and 1997 Department of Humanitarian Affairs, and the environment. As the restructuring of the United Nations system proceeded, there was good reason to emphasize the important role of evaluation as an instrument for improving management and programme planning. CPC recommended that future in-depth evaluation reports and the CPC recommendations on them should be brought to the attention of the relevant specialized intergovernmental bodies. It would then be the responsibility of the Chairman of CPC to request the Chairmen of those bodies to inform CPC of the action they had taken on its recommendations.

7. During the first part of its thirty-third session, CPC had also discussed the JIU report on United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions (E/1993/18 and Add.1) and the comments of ACC (E/1993/18/Add.2). The Committee had focused its discussion on two of the main conclusions: that the organizations of the United Nations system must make their programmes more competitive if they wished to build effective cooperation relationships with multilateral financial institutions; and that such coordination and cooperation depended on there being advantage to both sides. Members participating in the discussion generally supported the conclusions. There had been considerable support for the view that more emphasis should have been placed in the report on policy coordination. CPC endorsed the report's recommendations and commended them to the attention of the governing bodies and executive heads of the United Nations system organizations.

8. Discussion in CPC and the dialogue with the secretariat had shown that CPC was still in the process of defining adequate procedures to assist the membership in assessing the way in which the Organization carried out the policies and programmes decided upon by the General Assembly. In spite of considerable improvement over the years in refining programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, it was still difficult for Member States to assess the impact of the implementation of programmes and programme budgets. It was equally difficult to ensure sufficient coordination and cohesion of the United Nations system.

9. In conclusion, he asked the Council to adopt the CPC report and endorse its conclusions and recommendations.

10. Mr. STOBY (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the period covered by the ACC annual overview report (E/1993/81) had been active and fruitful for ACC. Starting early in 1992, ACC had undertaken an intensive review of its functioning and working methods. ACC recognized its individual and collective responsibility to provide impe-

tus and effective direction to the work of the system, and had agreed on a set of guiding principles and measures to that end. It had also agreed on a number of steps to improve its working procedures, had streamlined its subsidiary machinery and clearly defined the terms of reference of its standing committees.

11. During its first regular session in 1993, ACC had discussed the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations humanitarian assistance, including emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development, thus helping to prepare for the Council's consideration of the theme. As part of the follow-up by the United Nations system to the Conference on Environment and Development, ACC had taken a number of steps to mobilize the system's response to the challenge of sustainable development. An Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development had been established, and, at its first meeting had agreed on a number of guiding principles and measures for sharing responsibilities and enhancing cooperation for the implementation of Agenda 21. ACC had also adopted a statement for presentation at the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

12. With the assistance of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, ACC had continued to focus its efforts on improving the coherence and effectiveness of operational activities for development, with particular emphasis on field coordination. It had paid special attention to the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, including further work on the programme approach, national execution, capacity-building, field-level collaboration, decentralization, and the simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures relating to operational activities.

13. At the request of CPC, it had continued to devote attention to the question of assistance to countries most affected by sanctions against Iraq, in the context of Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. The report indicated that the organizations of the system had, as far as their resources and mandates allowed, responded to the special economic problems of the affected countries. Following a comprehensive discussion by ACC early in 1992 of the special needs of the transition economies in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, a number of steps had been taken by inter-agency bodies, including CCPOQ and the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, which were described in section 7 (*a*) of the report. ACC had also discussed the inter-agency implications of UNCTAD VIII, especially its role in the Cartagena Commitment,[1] and the reorientation of the work of the Trade and Development Board. ACC recognized the need for all organizations concerned to work actively towards agreement on concepts and approaches, to sort out their functions and establish operational guidelines and other coordination arrangements with UNCTAD activities.

14. In addition to its efforts to carry out a far-reaching reform of inter-agency machinery, ACC had tackled a number of substantive issues calling for a system-wide response. It had welcomed the opportunity provided during the high-level segments of the Council for a dialogue between members of governments and the executive heads of the United Nations system. It had expressed its readiness to work closely with the Council to enhance the coherence and impact of the system's activities in the economic, social, and related fields, and its confidence that, as current reforms of both intergovernmental machinery and inter-agency structures were completed, the system would be in a better position to respond to the new and vastly increased needs of the international community.

15. He wished to express his appreciation of the introductory statement by the Chairman of CPC to its report (A/48/16, part I). Members of the Secretariat had hoped that, in responding to the ACC report, CPC might have paid more regard to the reasons given by the Secretariat for the lateness of the report (ibid., para. 41).

16. With regard to the President's comments on the joint meetings, the ACC secretariat welcomed the fact that he had placed that matter before the Council. ACC had for some time taken the view that the role of the joint meetings should be reconsidered in the light of the recent restructuring of the Council, particularly the introduction of the high-level segments attended by the executive heads of agencies. The question arose whether, in the light of the new arrangements, there was a need for two mechanisms that required their attendance each year. ACC felt that consideration should be given to the possibility of turning the joint mechanisms into a working level mechanism which could act more precisely as a preparatory body for the Council in carrying out its coordinating functions.

17. Turning to the report on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1993/86), he said that the Council had been devoting increasing attention to that subject in recent years and in resolution 1992/60 had stressed the priority it attached to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and observers to the growing computerized databases and information systems and services of the system, and called for the urgent implementation of measures to that end. The report sought to respond to that request. It indicated that considerable attention had already been paid by the system to developing facilities to make electronic information readily available to Member States. The United Nations, UNCTAD, WHO, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WIPO, WFP and IMF had gone a long way towards setting up systems that would provide economical and user-friendly access, and the report gave information about plans by the United Nations, GATT and others to increase their

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[1] See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes* (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, section A.

dissemination activities. It also recognized the need to provide thematic as well as sectoral information. The Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems intended to devote greater attention to that aspect and had developed a prototype information module on the system called "UN-EARTH", which provided a snapshot of general information about each organization and agency. The report also described action taken in response to requests by missions for information and training, particularly in the form of training programmes organized by UNITAR.

18. ACC had devoted considerable attention to policy coordination in the area and had recognized the need to review its existing mechanisms. As a result, it had created a senior-level task force, which had identified four policy issues for further action: open access to United Nations database and information systems; ease of access; network infrastructure considerations; and centralized or distributed systems. The task force intended to present a report to ACC at its October session, which should enable ACC to report to the Council in 1994 on further steps the system would be taking to respond to the needs of Member States in that area.

19. Mr. SAMUELSON (Associate Secretary, Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions), introducing the ACC report on programmes and resources of the United Nations system for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/1993/84), said that the report was a response to a request from CPC to ACC for a general transparent overview of the system, which amongst other things would help to identify possible cases of overlapping with a view to eliminating them. The report followed the general lines of the first version, submitted to CPC two years previously and quite well received, but a number of improvements had been made.

20. First, the entire classification of programme activities had been fully revised so as to reflect the current structure as closely as possible. Secondly, efforts had been made to respond to the CPC request for additional information, especially by showing separately the resources available from organizations' regular budgets and from extrabudgetary or voluntary contributions. Thirdly, table 2 reflected the effort made, largely on the initiative of ACC itself, to distinguish between the resources of funding organizations, especially UNDP and UNFPA, and expenditures of funds.

21. The real substance of the report was found in table 4, which showed the programme objectives of the various organizations involved in each sector and subsector of the new programme classification. The aim was to be brief while giving as clear a picture as possible. An exhaustive statement was clearly out of the question, but the general idea provided could be supplemented, as necessary, by information in the budgets themselves. While it was very difficult to formulate programme objectives in a fully consistent manner for all the activities covered, efforts had been made to do so as far as possible and ACC planned to pursue this work. As they stood, the statements of programme objectives probably also failed to distinguish clearly enough the uniqueness of each organization's input in the sector concerned. It was hoped, however, that the report would be useful to the Council. A new version would be issued in two years' time.

22. Mrs. FOURNIER (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the idea of making 1995 a year for tolerance had been put forward by the General Conference of UNESCO in resolution 5.6, which had invited the Director-General to examine, in consultation with the United Nations, the appropriate arrangements for declaring 1995 United Nations year for tolerance and to prepare a declaration on tolerance that might be discussed and possibly adopted on that occasion.

23. Consultations with the United Nations had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/124. The Assembly had welcomed the proposal and requested the Director-General of UNESCO, in cooperation with other interested organizations, to prepare suggestions for the observance of the United Nations year for tolerance.

24. The year 1995 would also mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. It was important not merely to celebrate the anniversary of the United Nations but also to remember the reasons that had led to the Organization's creation. As the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of UNESCO made clear, the war that had "brought untold sorrow to mankind" had been made possible by denial of the democratic ideal of respect for the human person, in a word, by intolerance.

25. In the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations the practice of tolerance headed the list of means of maintaining peace, justice, respect for human rights and the promotion of social progress. Tolerance was crucial in relations between the citizen and non-citizen, the powerful and the poor, adult and child and men and women. It was an essential factor in the creation of the conditions of stability and well-being that were necessary to ensure peaceful and friendly relations between nations.

26. The programme in the report by the Director-General of UNESCO (E/1993/89, annex) outlined the strategy it was proposed to adopt in the various fields concerned with the question of tolerance. The celebration of the Year of Tolerance would give added significance to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, providing an opportunity for renewal of the worldwide agreement on the founding principles of the Organization. The agreement could be embodied in a solemn text, as the General Assembly had suggested. In that connection, a meeting of international experts had been held in Istanbul in April 1993 to work on a draft declaration on tolerance for submission to the General Assembly.

27. Education was a decisive factor in the fight against ignorance and racial prejudices and specific measures would be taken to promote education based on the exchange and free flow of ideas and the shaping of individuals capable of listening and being receptive to the opinions of others.

28. It was important also to strengthen freedom of expression by supporting the means of communication and free information and by encouraging the media to oppose social discrimination and marginalization.

29. As a means of lowering cultural tensions and avoiding open hostility, UNESCO proposed the execution of multilateral projects based on mutual advantage and intended to consolidate trust among peoples.

30. Nearly 50 years after its establishment, UNESCO hoped that the proclamation of 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance would enlist the active participation of all and that the world would rediscover the relevance of the first commitment of the peoples of the United Nations: to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.

31. Dr. CHOLLAT-TRAQUET (World Health Organization), introducing the report of the Director-General of WHO (E/1993/56, annex) said that for almost 25 years WHO had been actively concerned about the serious effects on health of the tobacco habit. Since 1970, the World Health Assembly had adopted a number of resolutions to guide the work of the WHO programme on tobacco or health. World Health Assembly resolutions 42.19 and 43.16 had prompted studies on the economic impact of tobacco production in countries whose economic and social development largely depended on it. In the light of the studies, the forty-fourth World Health Assembly had concluded that a country-by-country approach was necessary when considering the economic impact of tobacco production on consumption, the economy, the environment and health, and had recognized that developing countries for which tobacco production was a major source of income were likely to need external support to diversify from tobacco to other crops or activities, and find markets. That support could be provided by the World Bank, FAO, GATT, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP or UNCTAD.

32. As reflected in chapter IV of the report on multisectoral collaboration, the limits of WHO action must be carefully defined, bearing in mind its goal of reducing tobacco-related health problems, while not neglecting the need for agricultural diversification and economic support in the few countries dependent on tobacco production. The World Health Assembly had considered it important to discuss both issues in the appropriate forums of the United Nations system, such as the governing bodies of FAO, GATT, ILO, UNCTAD and UNIDO, as well as by the General Assembly.

33. Tobacco consumption was the most avoidable cause of death in some countries, usually in the most deprived sectors of the population, and had caused 3 million deaths per year throughout the world during the 1990s. According to WHO projections, the annual number of tobacco-related deaths was expected to rise to about 10 million by the 2020s, unless habits changed. The world had acquired the technology needed to break the vicious circle of poverty and disease and the rise in tobacco consumption in the developing countries, and among women in the developed countries, must not be allowed to offset the progress made in the sphere of health.

34. The United Nations system, in doing its utmost to avert health hazards stemming from a spread of tobacco consumption, was also responsible for developing multisectoral strategies to deal with the socio-economic and development implications in the countries dependent on tobacco production. In that context, WHO would continue to address the health aspects within the limits of its competence and resources, but could not deal with matters outside its mandate. At the unanimous request of the members of the World Health Assembly—and it should be noted that all members of the Council were also member States of WHO—the latter had requested the Council to have the subject placed on its agenda with a view to an appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly and the organizations of the United Nations system. The Director-General of WHO proposed the lines of action contained in his report (ibid., section IV.B).

35. Mr. MODOUX (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the promotion of press freedom in the world was one of UNESCO's primary concerns. UNESCO sought to promote a free, independent and pluralist press in all parts of the world and to meet, with the means at its disposal, requests for assistance in that field.

36. In 1989, the UNESCO General Conference had adopted a new strategy of communication, which had three primary objectives: to encourage the free circulation of information at the international and national levels; to promote the widest possible and balanced dissemination of information; and to develop the means capable of strengthening the communication capacities of developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process.

37. An early application of that new strategy had been the organization by UNESCO, in collaboration with the United Nations, in Windhoek, Namibia in 1991, of the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralist African Press. The Windhoek seminar had been attended by 63 journalists and independent leaders from 38 African countries. The discussions had led to the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration, which affirmed that the creation, maintenance and strengthening of an independent, pluralist and free press were indispensable for the progress and preservation of democracy as well as for economic development. The Windhoek Declaration had been supported by the General Conference, which had invited the Director-General of UNESCO to extend to

other regions the action taken in Africa and Europe to encourage press freedom and to promote the independence and pluralism of the media.

38. A second seminar had been held in Kazakhstan in October 1992 on the promotion of press freedoms in Asia. In their final declaration, the participants had endorsed the principles of the Windhoek Declaration.

39. UNESCO, the United Nations and UNDP were preparing a third regional seminar, to be held in Chile in April 1994.

40. The resolution entitled "Promotion of press freedom in the world", adopted by the General Conference in November 1991 (see E/1991/annex) invited the Director-General to transmit to the General Assembly the wish expressed by the States members of UNESCO to have 3 May declared "World Press Freedom Day". The date was the anniversary of the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration. It had been celebrated twice and had been given worldwide press coverage. UNESCO hoped the United Nations would be associated with the commemoration in future and that the day would become a symbol of the international community's commitment to press freedom.

41. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the Secretary-General's note transmitting the JIU report entitled "Towards an integrated library network of the United Nations system"[2] and the comments of the Secretary-General (A/48/83) and of ACC (A/48/83/Add.1). He also drew attention to the Secretary-General's note transmitting the JIU report, "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions: performance and innovation challenges" (see E/1993/18 and Add.1) and the comments of ACC (E/1993/18/Add.2).

42. Mrs. ROSSIGNOL (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, took up first the United Nations common system. In that connection, the Community's chief concern was the integrity and fundamental importance of the system. It offered the participating organizations many advantages and had become the cornerstone for the coordination of personnel questions in the United Nations. At the same time, the European Community wished the common system to remain capable of evolution and adaptation. Any problems encountered by it should find their solution within the system. The decision to join the system had been a voluntary one on the part of the organizations concerned and together with enjoying the system's advantages they must respect its conditions.

43. As far as ITU was concerned, the European Community wished to reiterate its disapproval of the payment in 1991 and 1992 of a special post allowance. It welcomed the ITU Administrative Council's decision to urge respect for the rules of the common system and the establishment by the Council of an advisory group on personnel management. It also expressed satisfaction that ITU's final budget remained largely within the limits approved by the Nice Plenipotentiary Conference in 1989.

44. On the matter of special occupational rates which had come up in connection with certain specialized agencies, she noted that General Assembly resolution 47/216, while recognizing that special occupational rates could be a useful management tool, particularly for recruiting highly qualified staff, emphasized that they should be introduced only in exceptional cases and clearly stipulated that such rates "should be specific to individual posts where there are demonstrable recruitment and retention problems and should be time limited". The European Community and its member States would keep a close eye on the problems which might result from a policy less rigorous than that approved by the General Assembly and recommended by the external auditors.

45. Turning to coordination questions in general, she said that at the first part of the thirty-second session of CPC, in 1992, members had been in favour of a more precise definition of the relationship between CPC and the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council. Since CPC was regarded as a subsidiary body of the Council, the task fell within its terms of reference. It regretted that the Council itself had not yet made any pronouncement in that connection. Unfortunately, the consequences of its not having done so had been manifest at the thirty-second session, when the absence of any definition of the Committee's role had led to serious difficulties. The fact that the documentation which the Committee should have used was not adequately presented had merely aggravated those difficulties. The circulation of documents E/1993/47/Add.1 and E/1993/47/Add.2, before themain document was even issued, and the inadequacy of the information it contained had led the delegations participating in the session to question the quality of the whole of the documentation on coordination submitted to CPC. The CPC report (A/48/16, part I) emphasized the importance of the Committee's role in regard to coordination. In addition, it referred to the concern, and indeed the anxiety, of members of the Committee regarding the quality of the preparatory work of ACC. It was noteworthy that ACC had not submitted the main report on coordination to CPC. She stressed the Community's misgivings in that connection.

46. She emphasized that the important task of coordination of CPC required assistance and dynamic cooperation from ACC as well as from the United Nations Secretariat. In the existing division of labour, those two units were responsible for the timely production of reliable documents. The European Community and its member States were ready to cooperate with any delegation to bring about such assistance and cooperation and to clarify the relationship between the Council and CPC.

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[2] See A/47/669, annex.

47. Mr. ELYSSEEV (Ukraine) said that the effectiveness of the efforts made by the United Nations system to deal with its tasks under the current reforms would depend greatly on smooth coordination among the Organization's various bodies. In that connection, the annual overview report of ACC not only reflected current international problems but also the possibilities for dialogue between Governments and the executive heads of the United Nations system. One problem of particular concern was in regard to the consequences, for the United Nations system, of the transition taking place in central and eastern Europe and the CIS. In 1991, ACC, having reviewed the economic reforms taking place, had decided to focus attention on the resultant problems with a view to providing essential resources for the countries concerned. Ukraine, one of those countries, was experiencing grave economic hardship in carrying out far-reaching economic and political reforms, and welcomed the fact that ACC had included the subject in its 1992 agenda.

48. His delegation had studied the question of coordination for assistance to countries suffering the effects of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, and thought it would also be appropriate to consider the adverse effects on countries bordering the Danube, including Ukraine, of the sanctions applied against the former Yugoslavia. In that regard, the losses suffered by Ukraine alone amounted to $4 billion.

49. At its thirty-third session, CPC had adopted useful recommendations on ways to strengthen coordination, including the setting up of a database on human rights and an ad hoc group on inter-agency coordination. It had recognized that the key to success was a combined effort to improve organization and coordinate the intergovernmental agencies' decisions in the light of their programme and budget implications. Such action must go hand in hand with coordination at the national level in order to harmonize the actions of countries and bodies of the United Nations system.

50. His delegation was in favour of strengthening arrangements for joint meetings of CPC and ACC. That forum, in which government spokesmen and representatives of the specialized agencies adopted joint recommendations on coordination within the United Nations system, had a great potential which should be further tapped. The strengthening of cooperation with a view to mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was undoubtedly one of the most important tasks in that regard, and his delegation proposed that the feasibility of establishing an ad hoc group on Chernobyl under ACC auspices should be considered.

51. With regard to cooperation between the United Nations system and multilateral financial institutions, his delegation appreciated the work of the Joint Inspection Unit.

52. On the subject of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health, his delegation shared the concern voiced about the growth in tobacco consumption and the associated rising number of deaths. The problem was particularly noticeable in the countries of eastern Europe, including Ukraine, where the recent economic liberalization had led to a rise in the promotion of tobacco products which not only hampered the campaign against tobacco consumption but was fostering the spread of the habit. There was a striking increase in the number of younger smokers. While the number of smokers was falling in the United States and most developed countries of western Europe, under the influence of government and social programmes, with a corresponding reduction in mortality, a diametrically opposite trend was to be observed in the countries undergoing economic transition.

53. Coordinated action was called for, therefore, not only within the United Nations system but in national programmes. The Ukraine would be interested to learn the experience of countries which had made progress in reducing the scourge. In his delegation's view, success depended in most cases on the interest and effort of the State itself. The problem of tobacco and smoking was, of course, a very delicate one, involving not only national interests but the interests of every individual.

54. He endorsed the suggestion, in the report of the Director-General of WHO (E/1993/56, annex), that support for a campaign against the tobacco habit could also be provided by the World Bank, FAO, GATT, UNDP, UNIDO and UNCTAD. It was essential for each competent body to draw up and implement a suitable programme of work, with specific goals and timeframes. It would be useful, in that regard, to involve the various country groups, as well as social and sports organizations such as the International Olympic Committee. His delegation welcomed the resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly, and was attracted to the idea of an annual world no-tobacco day. Its declaration at the national level should be considered.

55. The major socio-political and socio-economic changes in the countries of central and eastern Europe called for a new approach to the question of information contacts at all levels.

56. In that regard, an international conference had been held in Kiev in May 1993 on the development of national scientific and technological information systems in the countries of the CIS and central and eastern Europe in the new socio-political and socio-economic conditions. Efforts had been made to find a general approach to the structure, aims and function of national scientific and technological information systems and to economic, juridical, technical and technological support for their operation. The conference was an important step towards enhanced research and a consolidated approach to the development and improvement of national scientific and technological information systems.

57. Ukraine, which was entering a decisive phase of State and market reforms, regarded informatics as an es-

sential component of the tasks involved. Following the collapse of the informatics system of the former Soviet Union, the country was deprived of many sources of information and was thus hampered in its transformation efforts. In particular, the virtual halt to patent funds, documentation on standards, industrial catalogues and foreign scientific and technical literature meant that Ukraine must create, as quickly as possible, its own national system of State and private information centres, and gain access to the developed countries' information resources.

58. His delegation hoped that the international community's efforts towards broader cooperation in the field of informatics would lead to decisions to promote the speedy linkage of interested States to international informatics systems. It also looked forward to the developed countries' collaboration in setting up modern computer systems, and to opportunities for training personnel in that field, in which Ukraine was ready to collaborate and support any initiatives.

59. Mr. PURCELL (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO shared international concern over the growing evidence of the harmful effects of tobacco smoking and the rising incidence of smoking-related diseases in both developed and developing countries. The WHO plan of action called, among other things, for tobacco control programmes by member States and for multisectoral collaboration within the United Nations system. FAO supported the work done by WHO to discourage smoking because it believed that, over the long term, efforts to reduce tobacco production were unlikely to be effective unless they were accompanied by measures to curtail demand.

60. Stimulated by rising demand and comparatively favourable prices, world tobacco production had increased steadily during the 1980s, chiefly in developing countries, which had recorded an annual increase of more than 5 per cent. The outlook for leaf tobacco production to the year 2000 was for continued growth, though at a lower rate, reaching 8 million tonnes by the year 2000. Tobacco consumption had also increased during the 1980s by more than 2 per cent annually, most of the increase occurring in the developing countries, especially the Asia and Pacific region. In the developed countries consumption had declined because of mounting concern over health issues and vigorous anti-smoking campaigns. Demand for tobacco was expected to continue to expand to the year 2000, but at a slower pace, shrinking in the developed countries and expanding in developing countries.

61. The tobacco industry also gave rise to concern about environmental issues, because of deforestation. Although the consumption of fuel wood by the tobacco industry in developing countries was considerably lower than that of the household sector, it could lead to fuel shortages. Furthermore, a high proportion of the tobacco-growing areas in developing countries were in parts of the world identified by FAO as wood-deficit or prospective wood-deficit areas. Measures were therefore required to conserve existing forest resources, create new supplies for the future and conserve the energy used in curing tobacco.

62. At the same time, tobacco was of considerable economic importance to several developing countries. As part of its regular commodity analyses, FAO kept a continuing watch on trends in tobacco production, demand and trade. In its work, FAO was regularly called upon by Governments of member States to provide assistance for agricultural development and technical assistance in the cultivation and marketing of selected commodities. However, since the adoption of the WHO resolutions on smoking and health, FAO had not encouraged any activities leading to project formulation for tobacco, nor was it involved in any ongoing multilateral or bilateral-supported tobacco project. In the context of achieving a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of tobacco and health, FAO had also indicated its willingness to assist in crop diversification away from tobacco. However, while it would continue to take into account the harmful effects of tobacco smoking on health, and therefore the general undesirability of encouraging production of the commodity, it might have to consider requests for technical assistance to the sector in particular situations where overriding short-term economic considerations would warrant it.

63. In recent years, FAO had prepared, in cooperation with WHO, two background studies: one on the economic significance of tobacco and the other on tobacco supply, demand and trade projections for 1995 and 2000. At its fifty-seventh session, in 1989, the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems had discussed the economic significance of tobacco, including the socio-economic consequences of tobacco consumption, on the basis of those two studies. As part of the effort for a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to the problems of tobacco and health, particularly as they affected developing countries heavily dependent on the crop, FAO stood ready, subject to the availability of funds, to assist any Government seeking to investigate possible diversification from tobacco production. To date, no country had approached FAO for such assistance.

64. Mr. BATU (Turkey) recalled that the idea of proclaiming 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance had been introduced by UNESCO. The General Assembly had welcomed the initiative, requested the Director-General of UNESCO to submit his suggestions to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, and invited the Council to consider the question of proclaiming 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance and to transmit a recommendation to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

65. The choice of 1995 needed no explanation. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, the purpose of which was to build a new world order based on peace and friendship. The concept of tolerance among States, communities and individuals

was the essence of that endeavour. The preamble to the Charter of the United Nations proclaimed the determination of the peoples of the United Nations "to practice tolerance" in order to maintain peace and promote justice, respect for human rights and social progress. The proclamation of 1995 as the year for tolerance would thus not only celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations but would reacquaint the world with the reasons that had paved the way for its establishment.

66. Most of the threats facing humanity, as it went through the first stages of a new phase of its history, stemmed from the lack of tolerance. In the current circumstances, humanity needed not only political programmes and actions but also a new vision of a peaceful life for all human beings regardless of ethnic origin or religion. In other words, humanity needed new hopes, goals, ideals and standards. The proclamation and celebration of a year for tolerance would help to strengthen such a vision.

67. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/124, his delegation had decided to put forward a draft resolution, stressing the importance of national and international efforts to promote tolerance, encouraging UNESCO to continue its work for the preparation of a declaration on tolerance, and recommending that the General Assembly should proclaim 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance, which it hoped would be adopted by consensus. In that connection, he noted that the Turkish Government, which had acted as host to the meeting of international experts which had drafted the preliminary text of the declaration on tolerance, had decided to propose in due course that a conference should be convened in 1995 in Istanbul, on inter-religious dialogue, tolerance and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The conference would be organized by UNESCO. In conclusion, he emphasized that the decision to proclaim 1995 as the year for tolerance would have no budgetary implications for the United Nations.

68. Mr. NTABA (Observer for Malawi) said that Malawi's concerns about multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health were shared by many other countries in similar situations. He hoped the Council's discussion would lead to coordinated action to help countries heavily dependent on tobacco income.

69. In Malawi, agriculture employed 82 per cent of the economically active population and tobacco was the backbone of the national economy. More than 60 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings came from tobacco. With assistance from the World Bank, Malawi had explored the possibility of viable economic options to tobacco in order to alleviate the poverty of its rural poor, but the outcome had been that there was no viable option. On the contrary, the exercise had ended with a strong recommendation that the previously limited cultivation of the burley type of tobacco should be extended to the rural population to enable them to escape from the poverty trap. In that connection, FAO had helped Malawi to improve its tobacco production, which had increased from 86 million kilos in 1989 to over 136 million kilos in 1992. That increased production had not been out of defiance or protest against the tobacco or health programme but simply that Malawi had no choice between tobacco and health. Tobacco-related illnesses and deaths were virtually unknown in Malawi because its own tobacco consumption was still low. Its people often died of diseases caused by poverty long before they had the luxury of developing the complications of long-term tobacco consumption.

70. Malawi's dilemma was between tobacco growing or deaths from diseases of poverty aggravated by the economic deprivation caused by the withdrawal of tobacco from the economy. It was that which had caused it to call persistently for a more balanced and realistic approach to tobacco in the World Health Assembly, but the tide against tobacco in WHO was so strong that it was futile to try to swim against it. Malawi hoped, however, that that tide could be moderated by the traditional realities of the mandates of other United Nations agencies, in the Economic and Social Council and in the General Assembly.

71. For many years, Malawi had supported resolutions in WHO seeking to help those countries that depended on tobacco income. In practice, however, these resolutions had proved useless. For instance, nothing had been done in all those years to help Malawi reduce its dependence on tobacco. The solution to Malawi's dilemma lay beyond the competence of WHO.

72. The distressing complexity of the tobacco or health question was illustrated by the fact that many rich countries had recently reported with a sense of accomplishment their decreasing rates of consumption and diminishing rates of mortality and morbidity. Yet, those same rich countries continued to greatly increase their subsidies to their own tobacco farmers. For example, in the European Community alone, there had been a 4.3-fold increase in the past 11 years. Those same countries were importing more and more raw tobacco from poor countries like Malawi in order to add more high value and re-export it. Their Governments retained 80 per cent or more of the income from high-value tobacco products, from cigarette tax revenues and from import duties, while farmers in Malawi and similar countries received only 1 to 2 per cent of the income from the tobacco end-product.

73. The sincerity and moral integrity of the tobacco or health initiatives of many Governments was thus questionable. It would improve the moral transparency of tobacco or health campaigns in the rich countries if they were to channel part of their tobacco income back to the tobacco-dependent countries and to their own tobacco farmers for diversification programmes.

74. The same rich countries competed vigorously against Malawi and other poor tobacco-dependent countries in producing tobacco for the shrinking world market. They could, if they wished, easily drop tobacco,

with no economic consequences. Their leaders should summon the political courage to withdraw from such competition. The terms of trade could be changed for the benefit of the tobacco-dependent countries for the specific purpose of making crop diversification more practical and assisting in the search for viable economic options.

75. It was not morally right that the WHO tobacco or health programme should remove tobacco-related diseases from the affluent countries while abandoning the poor tobacco-dependent countries to suffer the economic deprivation and consequent deaths from diseases of poverty that would result from tobacco withdrawal. Malawi was relieved that the tobacco question had been brought before the Council because it believed that the needs of the poor tobacco-dependent countries could and must be overcome through the coordinated action of the United Nations system. The solution required more than anti-smoking legislation. It would involve issues of crop substitution, government subsidies to tobacco farmers, import duties and taxes on tobacco products, favourable terms of trade in tobacco for the poor countries and a review of the policies of the tobacco manufacturing industry. The agencies in that coordinated approach would include FAO, GATT, ILO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, the World Bank, UNDP and WHO. His delegation urged the Council to adopt an appropriate resolution or decision that would bring such a coordinated approach into effect.

76. Mr. ELKARIB (Observer for the Sudan) said that the efforts of the Director-General of UNESCO on behalf of the observance of a United Nations year for tolerance was a welcome step towards a more tolerant world, free from all forms of intolerance, religious or otherwise. The concept of tolerance should be thoroughly debated by the international community with a view to achieving the goals outlined in the Director-General's report (E/1993/89).

77. The Sudan, which was a multiracial country and deeply interested in all issues related to religious tolerance, had held an international conference on religions in April 1993. Scholars, thinkers and journalists, both Christians and Muslims, from 33 countries, had participated in the conference, the first popular gathering of religions ever to be held in the Sudan. The five-day meeting had resulted in several positive conclusions. It had been agreed that the world stood in dire need of moral values. The conference had further confirmed the effective role of religion in human society and the need to enlist spiritual energy in the enrichment of life through tolerance and peaceful coexistence between creeds. It was further agreed that there should be equality among people regardless of their religious beliefs and social and moral systems and that it was important that dialogue should be maintained wherever there was religious diversity, at the national, regional and global levels.

78. Pope John Paul II had recently made a first visit to the Sudan, during which an exchange of views had taken place between the Pope's entourage and Sudanese religious and Government officials. It had been agreed that there was a need for dialogue between Islam and Christianity, with a view to exploring the possibility of outlining the common grounds shared by the two religions, and in that way laying a firm foundation for a new international order based on tolerance, understanding and good will. It would be conducive to the success of such an undertaking if UNESCO could take part in arranging a dialogue of that kind.

79. Mr. NEBENZYA (Russian Federation) said that his delegation endorsed the recommendations adopted by CPC at the first part of its thirty-third session. It considered that CPC played an important role in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system. The delay in the publication of documents for the session had considerably complicated the task of CPC.

80. Commenting on the work of ACC in connection with the problems faced by countries in transition, he said his delegation favoured increased interaction between organizations of the United Nations system and considered that ACC could play an important role in that respect.

81. It approved the work of ACC with regard to the monitoring of intra-agency coordination mechanisms to ensure the contribution made by the United Nations system towards the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

82. In his delegation's opinion, the idea that the officers of the Council and members of CPC should participate in the meetings of ACC and its main subsidiary organs deserved further study.

83. With regard to the question of international cooperation in the field of informatics, the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/86) provided an opportunity to evaluate the efforts made to ensure the unhindered access of Member States to United Nations computerized databases and information systems. Those efforts included the analysis of existing United Nations information systems and ACC action with regard to the creation of appropriate coordination machinery based on experience gained by the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems and the International Computing Centre. However, it was still too early to say that significant progress had been made.

84. There was undoubtedly need for appropriately trained staff. In that connection, his delegation supported UNITAR efforts to establish training programmes for specialists.

85. In his delegation's opinion, side by side with the coordination of United Nations activities in the informatics field, it was necessary to look for new forms of cooperation with a view to the construction of a global mechanism for the transfer of information. One promising direction for cooperation could be the creation of so-called "open systems" that would enable all countries to

have free and inexpensive access to international information networks. At the initial stage, attention might be concentrated on questions involving the creation of standards for the "open systems".

86. With respect to the question of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health, his delegation thought that the WHO programme of tobacco or health deserved full international support and agreed on the need for multisectoral collaboration on that problem within the framework of the United Nations system. WHO should intensify its work on the medical and health aspects of the use of tobacco, including the provision of assistance to countries, at their request, in drawing up national policies and programmes and providing them with reliable information on the harmful effects of tobacco on the health of people and the environment. Together with other international organizations, WHO should also elaborate and disseminate methodologies for evaluating the economic questions related to the use of tobacco and stimulate scientific research on the main aspects of the fight against tobacco.

87. His delegation agreed that the problem should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly with a view to the establishment of specific machinery for coordination of multisectoral collaboration.

88. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the current report of ACC (E/1993/81) was regarded by the Committee itself and by the Secretary-General as an important one. In addition to dealing with a number of substantive issues it outlined in detail the new approaches adopted by ACC to issues of coordination within the United Nations system in response to the perceived needs and wishes of Member States. Thus, the report described what ACC had done to equip itself better to respond to the needs of the new international situation and, in that context, described the extensive restructuring undergone by the ACC machinery. The Secretariat hoped that, before the debate was concluded, members of the Council would have an opportunity to become more aware of the issues raised in that report and to engage in a dialogue with the Secretariat about the new approaches adopted, and the restructuring undergone, by ACC. In particular he hoped that, before the end of the debate, the member States of the European Community would be able, in addition to expressing concern about the timeliness of documentation, to engage in a dialogue on the substantive points raised by ACC in its report.

89. Mr. SREENIVASAN (Chairman, Committee for Programme and Coordination), thanked those delegations which had commented positively on the CPC report on the first part of its thirty-third session (A/48/16, part I), and their endorsement of some of the report's conclusions and recommendations. He would like to remove the impression that there was any conflict of interest between CPC and ACC. Both had every interest in strengthening cooperation and coordination among the various agencies of the system. The complications that had arisen at the first part of the thirty-third session had stemmed from the fact that CPC had received the impression that it was being in some way sidelined because the ACC report was being sent directly to the Council without CPC being given an opportunity to consider it and make recommendations. That situation had been to some extent alleviated by the fact that the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development had given an oral description of the changes in ACC and its interest in presenting a fuller report to the Council, for which it would need more time.

90. He had not referred to the explanations by the Secretariat because CPC had not thought them an adequate response to its concerns. After considering all the explanations given by the Secretariat, CPC had still felt that it was necessary for ACC to take account of the very basic role of CPC in regard to coordination. CPC, therefore, continued to maintain the position that the cooperation between ACC and CPC must be strengthened and that the coordination activities of the two bodies should be carried out in accordance with their respective mandates.

91. A point had been made about the level of the joint meetings. The position of CPC was that, as far as it was concerned, the highest level of representation of the executive heads of the bodies concerned was essential in any kind of exchange between CPC and ACC. In conclusion, he said that CPC was keeping the discussion open. The second part of the thirty-third session, to be held later in the year, would give attention also to questions of coordination, although it would be somewhat preoccupied by budget matters.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

32nd meeting

Wednesday, 14 July 1993, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)
later: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.32

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued*):

- **(*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies (*continued*)**
- **(*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics (*continued*)**
- **(*d*) Question of a United Nations year for tolerance (*continued*)**
- **(*e*) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (*continued*)**

Promotion of press freedom in the world (*continued*)

1. Mr. BALOCH (Observer for Pakistan) said his delegation hoped that more efficient coordination machinery would enable ACC to focus better on the key substantive issues facing the international community, to which the United Nations system was called upon to respond in a well-coordinated and effective manner. That was perhaps the most important question the system needed to address.

2. His delegation attached great importance to the response of ACC to the special economic problems of countries affected by the sanctions against Iraq, as well as the measures taken to implement Agenda 21 and the Cartagena Commitment[1] adopted by UNCTAD VIII. His delegation was deeply concerned at the signs, throughout the United Nations system, of declining resources, which could undermine the system's technical capacity and its support for developing countries. To survive the financial crunch, components of the system would have to learn to work together to achieve the common goals set by the international community.

3. With regard to the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1993/86), his delegation's main concern was to achieve the harmonization and improvement of the United Nations information systems needed for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States Members. Some initial steps had been taken but much needed to be done. His delegation had taken careful note of the review being undertaken by ACC and felt that not enough consultation was taking place among Governments of Member States and those responsible for the review. He urged that regular, systematic consultation should take place before the current review was completed and its outcome submitted for approval of ACC. As the report pointed out, a number of steps could be taken to improve States Members' access to information within the United Nations system in the public domain, even before a new structure for the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems and the International Computing Centre was developed. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the executive heads of the system, would ensure that the matter received high priority in response to the Council's decisions.

4. Ms. BIRGIN (Australia), referring to the report of the Director-General of WHO (E/1993/56, annex) said that many agencies had focused attention on the health costs of tobacco consumption and that WHO had alerted member States to the dangers. The World Health Assembly, in a number of resolutions, had urged member States to adopt comprehensive strategies of tobacco control. Australia's national strategies, including bans on tobacco advertising and promotion, workplace smoking bans in the governmental and non-governmental sectors, national anti-smoking education programmes and tobacco taxation measures. The World Bank had adopted a policy of providing no new loans for the growing or manufacture of tobacco.

5. Some nations, however, earned significant foreign exchange from tobacco production, which also provided employment opportunities and government revenue. A multisectoral approach, therefore, was the best approach to the task of weighing the apparent economic benefits of tobacco production against the costs of its consumption. A successful international tobacco strategy must aim at reducing the global demand for tobacco products, with a consequent reduction in supply requirements—an approach consistent with the effective international strategies to deal with illicit drug trafficking.

6. The number of smokers had diminished significantly in Australia, from 72 per cent of adult men in 1945 to 30 per cent in 1989, and from 31 per cent of adult women in 1980 to 27 per cent in 1989. Domestic

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[1] See 31st meeting, note 1.

tobacco-production profitability had declined also, but increasing demand from other nations, particularly in South-East Asia, might keep production at current levels.

7. Emphasis on economic aspects could focus on the costs to the community stemming from sickness and death, fires and other tobacco-related accidents, absenteeism and the effects of passive smoking, as well as on environmental damage such as soil degradation and the effects of pesticides.

8. Multisectoral collaboration must involve all relevant international agencies, and the developed nations must cooperate closely with developing countries in applying suitable policies and strategies. It would be useful to establish a focal point within the United Nations to consider the multisectoral implications of tobacco consumption and production, with a view to studying the range of issues and developing a negotiated strategy. There would have to be negotiation with relevant international organizations on the full range of socio-economic issues, in order to put appropriate strategies in place. Reports on the effectiveness of a multisectoral approach should be provided, through the focal point, to the Council on a regular basis.

9. Mr. KEDZIA (Poland) said that his Government thanked the Secretary-General for focusing, in his report on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1993/86), on the continued flow of information to States Members concerning the Organization's activities, user-friendly access to information systems, and training. The report rightly stressed the importance of a comprehensive, integrated approach. The whole area of United Nations activities should be covered. It was striking, however, that, only a few weeks after the World Conference on Human Rights, which had stressed the need for coordinated activities in that field and for further promotion of and education on human rights, the organizing of information on human rights seemed neglected. Since unlimited access to information was an obvious prerequisite, his delegation urged the competent United Nations organs to adopt a comprehensive information programme on human rights, which should include the establishment of a generally and easily accessible database at Geneva as well as the publication of human rights documentation on CD-ROM. Easy, inexpensive access by all States Members to information was essential to the equality of Members, which was a fundamental principle of a democratic world order. An efficient United Nations effort in the field of informatics was a matter of high political priority.

10. With regard to the question of a United Nations year for tolerance, the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (E/1993/89, annex) described tolerance as a controversial concept. Indeed, in the debate in the French National Assembly on the Declaration of the Rights of Man, Mirabeau had opposed the draft, preferring a proclamation of religious freedom instead of tolerance. As he had pointed out, if there was a state of tolerance there was bound to be an authority that tolerated but could also refuse to do so. Tolerance alone was not enough, and might even be contrary to the rule of law. If a deed was punishable, the State administering justice could refrain from punishing it only in cases clearly identified by law.

11. Tolerance, therefore, could not replace freedom in relations between the State and the individual. In Poland, before the political upheaval of 1989, it had been government policy not to interfere greatly with freedom of speech and print, but the censorship system had existed as before. Censorship might be slack in a situation of tolerance, but in a state of freedom it did not exist at all.

12. Tolerance should not be perceived as a political category only. Viewed as a human characteristic, tolerance was an indispensable element of human rights culture. Without tolerance in relations among and between peoples, there could be no genuine observance of human rights—a fact recognized in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tolerance was especially relevant in certain areas, particularly in regard to freedom of religion, racial discrimination and press freedom. His delegation welcomed the proclamation of 1995 as the year for tolerance. It should be a year not of celebration but of concerted action by Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In that light, his delegation supported the report of the Director-General of UNESCO, and hoped that the outlined programme for the year would contribute significantly to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23) of the World Conference on Human Rights.

13. Mr. RAS-WORK (International Telecommunication Union) said that ITU, as the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, was particularly pleased that the Council had included international cooperation in the field of informatics in its agenda.

14. The worldwide ITU information network for its members, the Telecommunication Information Exchange Service, provided remote consultation and electronic transfer of documents and an interactive electronic exchange of information. Geneva-based missions accredited to the United Nations had been offered the possibility of connection to the network.

15. In deciding to establish a senior-level task force on United Nations information systems, ACC had requested ITU to assume the role of lead agency. The task force was composed of senior-level information policy makers of the United Nations system, as distinct from information technology specialists. Having reviewed its mandate, it had highlighted five major components: general requirements for the dissemination and exchange of appropriate information between Member States and the United Nations and its specialized agencies; ways and means to harmonize and improve the United Nations in-

formation network system; the status of information technology in the system, and related telecommunications infrastructure; the roles and structures of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems and the International Computing Centre; and the information needs of ACC and its standing committees. The task force would submit a report in October on the urgent aspects of its work programme, and expected to submit its final report by April 1994. With regard to the comments made by the observer for Pakistan, he felt sure that the task force would arrange in advance for all necessary coordination.

16. ITU was conscious of the importance of an up-to-date, reliable communications network to all Member States, organizations and the private sector. It would do its utmost to provide the Council, through ACC, with comprehensive practical recommendations for implementation.

17. Mr. PATNAIK (India) said that his delegation welcomed the CPC report on the first part of its thirty-third session (A/48/16, part I) but regretted that CPC had been hampered by the late appearance and inadequacy of the documentation on coordination. He hoped that ACC would pay due attention to reporting at the next session. His delegation, which had participated actively in the work of CPC, stressed the latter's role in coordinating the work of the United Nations system, and welcomed the CPC conclusions and recommendations, which it hoped the Council would adopt.

18. The CPC evaluation exercise was most useful. For instance, in the field of human rights, CPC had recommended the establishment of a database. It was important to be guided, in that regard, by the principle of indivisibility of all human rights, including civil, political, economic and social. Similarly, with regard to the recommendations relating to UNHCR, it was important that the latter's activities should be confined to its mandate and not lead to an undue strain on its resources.

19. His delegation stressed the need to strengthen the role of CPC in system-wide coordination, in the context not only of the programme budget but also of the medium-term plan.

20. Mr. DELACROIX (France) referred to the resolution of the UNESCO General Conference on the promotion of press freedom in the world (E/1993/58, annex). As the Windhoek Declaration affirmed, the establishment of a free press was vital for a democratic society and its economic development. His delegation fully supported the proposal that the General Assembly should be invited to have 3 May declared World Press Freedom Day, and would be prepared to co-sponsor a draft resolution to that effect.

21. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1993/86), said that he had taken careful note of the comments by the observer for Pakistan, and of his concern that not enough consultations were taking place among those responsible for carrying out the review and Governments of Member States. He wished to point out, in that regard, that the decision to hold such a policy review had been taken by ACC only in April 1993. As mentioned in the ACC report, and in his statement to the Council the previous day (31st meeting), there had been an immediate report back to the Council, with an indication of the main policy issues which had emerged from the ACC task force's first meeting, including an indication when the task force would be meeting again and when it expected to conclude its work. Therefore he was somewhat taken aback to hear that there had not been enough consultation in the matter. In fact, the opportunity had been seized of informing the Council, at its current session, of the action ACC was taking; in particular, the opportunity for dialogue with Member States and members of the Council was welcome. The current session was itself a welcome opportunity for consultations, and he looked forward to any views which members of the Council, or the Council itself, might have on the review initiated by ACC.

22. Mrs. FOURNIER (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) welcomed the Polish representative's statement on the need to reflect on the concept of tolerance. She fully agreed that the latter could not replace the concept of freedom, and that an integrated approach was essential.

23. Mr. ROCHON (World Health Organization) on behalf of the Director-General of WHO, thanked members of the Council for their support of the Director-General's report (E/1993/56, annex). In all cases, WHO would continue its intensive work to combat the use of tobacco, including support for activities at the national level. An integrated approach to the problem by the entire United Nations system was essential. Experience had shown that uncoordinated action was not enough.

24. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its general discussion of items 4 (*a*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*).

Mr. Huslid, Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*continued**):

(*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action

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* Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (*continued)**

25. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1993/L.26.

26. In paragraph 10, the beginning of the last sentence should read "United Nations organs and organizations".

27. The text of the draft agreed conclusions was the result of considerable work and many revisions. He noted that in the penultimate paragraph, the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report the development of which should be monitored by the Council, on the implementation of the recommendations to improve coordination in the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. He also drew attention to the statement in the final paragraph that, in returning to the subject in 1994, the Council should exert more fully its coordinating role as defined in the Charter of the United Nations.

28. Mr. PATNAIK (India) said that there were still differences about the precise meaning of the agreed conclusions. In normal United Nations processes, there were two ends of the spectrum when it was a question of adopting recommendations of that nature. On the one hand, there were presidential statements of the kind the President of the Council frequently issued under his authority. At the other end of the spectrum, there were resolutions which had been carefully negotiated between delegations. In the middle, there was the innovation of the agreed conclusions, which his delegation considered to be more than a presidential summary of statements and less than a resolution. However, their exact legal status had not yet been defined. In his delegation's view, they were more similar to the presidential statements issued in the Security Council.

29. Subject to that basic interpretation, his delegation would be happy to adopt the draft conclusions. They were a clear message to the agencies involved that, when they reported to the Council the following year, it must be on the basis of those conclusions.

30. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to adopt the conclusions.

It was so decided.

31. Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the efforts made by the President to arrive at the conclusions reached. However, he agreed with the point made by the Indian representative. He recognized that the decision had been taken by the Council at its current session and that new machinery had been developed to avoid spending hours and days discussing paragraphs and becoming involved in time-consuming work. However, the Council might be falling into a new pitfall by adopting a series of paragraphs which were mostly declarative and some of which had no significance. He would like, for example, to know the meaning of paragraph 6.

32. At a future session, the Council should consider returning to the previous procedure involving resolutions and decisions which were quite clear and avoid producing lengthy documents that were mostly declarative.

33. The PRESIDENT agreed that the Council should give thought to ways in which it could improve the process. In the present case, however, it had not been easy. Many proposals had been made and in some cases delegations had not pressed their texts. However, he recognized that, in future, efforts should be made to arrive at a shorter and more action-oriented process.

34. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Cooperation and Sustainable Development) said, with regard to the second sentence of paragraph 19, that while it was not quite clear what the word "monitor" involved, particularly in terms of the development of the report, he thought that it would be useful to place on record the consistent position of the Secretary-General on that question. Once a request was made to the Secretary-General to prepare a report, the matter came within the ambit of the Secretariat. The report was prepared in the internal processes and submitted to Member States in accordance with the particular request. The indication given in the document about monitoring related perhaps to earlier decisions taken by the Council suggesting that the Bureau should monitor the timeliness of the preparation of the report. However, the substantive process of preparing the report was of course an entirely internal matter.

35. The PRESIDENT, referring to the point raised by the Indian representative, said that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Stoby and members of the Secretariat. On the operational side, there should be no doubt about the value and force of the conclusions. With regard to the substance, he was confident that the conclusions served their purpose.

36. With respect to the formulation of the document, the Secretariat would prepare an introductory text, stating that the Council had decided to adopt the following agreed conclusions containing specific recommendations relating to coordination in the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera. The Council was adopting the conclusions with the assent of all members. There was no doubt that they were clear directives to the organs of the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.

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* Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

33rd meeting

Thursday, 15 July 1993, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.33

AGENDA ITEM 10

Non-governmental organizations

1. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the experience and mass of information in the possession of non-governmental organizations had not yet been given the consideration or use they deserved. For that reason, it was desirable to strengthen relations between the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations. Moreover, during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio, a multitude of non-governmental organizations, both with and without consultative status, had been particularly active. The Secretary-General believed that three fundamental principles should govern the review of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which the Council had decided to undertake with the assistance of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations: it should be comprehensive, it should take into account the relevant current arrangements as well as the experience of UNCED and, lastly, there should be nothing to prevent non-governmental organizations that were not formally associated with the work of the United Nations system from taking part.

2. Regarding the review of the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit and the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1992/39, he said that the representative of the Secretary-General had reported orally to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. There had been few changes since that report, although the Secretary-General had increased the Unit's human resources by 50 per cent. In addition, at a time when the Secretariat's economic and social sectors were undergoing reorganization, leading, in particular, to the creation of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of which the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit was a part, it would be wise to see how the new structure worked before requesting an increase in resources. It also appeared judicious to wait until the arrangements regarding consultation with non-governmental organizations had been reviewed before reconsidering the resources allocated to the Unit.

3. Mr. VAN CRAEN (Belgium) speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the major role played by non-governmental organizations in areas of activity of the United Nations had long been recognized, in particular by Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the wave of democratization sweeping through all the regions of the world held out new possibilities to the non-governmental organizations, which were as a result able to operate under less difficult conditions.

4. The European Community and its member States believed that every encouragement should be given to increased participation by non-governmental organizations in appropriate areas of the work of the United Nations. The experience of UNCED and of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna had demonstrated the value of the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, regardless of whether they were in consultative status, to the deliberations of international conferences. The World Conference on Human Rights had, in particular, strongly supported the major role of non-governmental organizations in promoting all human rights and in humanitarian action at the national, regional and international levels (see A/CONF.157/23, para. 38). It had also called for the rapid adoption of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. In view of the increasing number of international meetings, the strengthening of the bonds between the United Nations and the non-governmental organization community and the need to establish a uniform frame of reference for the arrangements whereby non-governmental organizations, whether or not they were in consultative status, were accredited and able to participate in international conferences, the Council had decided, at its organizational session, to carry out an overall review of the current arrangements, as instituted by its resolution 1296 (XLIV). It had moreover requested the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider the modalities for such a review and to submit its proposals to the substantive session of 1993. At its preceding session, the Committee had recommended the establishment of an open-ended working group (E/1993/63 and Corr.2), to carry out the overall review

requested by the Economic and Social Council in order, in particular, to harmonize the rules regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences organized by the United Nations. The recommendation suggested, *inter alia*, that non-governmental organizations should actively participate in the working group, in accordance with established practice. The participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status was defined by resolution 1296 (XLIV); for the others, specific arrangements for participation were set out in the annex to the resolution. The European Community and its member States would have preferred more flexible arrangements. In its view, resolution 1296 (XLIV) remained a useful basis, but needed amplifying in some respects. For example, it would be possible to modify the methods of work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, including the frequency of its meetings.

6. Regarding the open-ended working group, the European Community and its member States, which favoured the establishment of such a group, believed that non-governmental organizations should be able to contribute to the review process. The working group should report to a special session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and, through the Committee, to the Economic and Social Council in 1994. Moreover, the European Community and its member States believed that, in order to ensure international support for the review, the recommendations should be submitted for consideration to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

7. The European Community and its member States earnestly hoped that the proposals for the granting of consultative status made by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would be accepted by the Economic and Social Council. However, it was unfortunate that the Committee had been compelled to break with its tradition of working by consensus. There was no denying that at the most recent session, factors outside the scope of resolution 1296 (XLIV) had influenced the consideration of applications. Consideration of applications for consultative status, as well as the analysis of the quadrennial reports, should be conducted on the basis of objective criteria, as laid down by resolution 1296 (XLIV), and not be influenced by political factors detrimental to the satisfactory working of the Committee. Moreover, the European Community and its member States were convinced of the need to strengthen the Secretariat's Non-Governmental Organizations Unit if it was to continue to perform its role. The volume of work of the Unit had continued to increase while its resources had remained unchanged since its establishment in 1947. The European Community and its member States accordingly welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to take a first step towards strengthening the Unit and recommended that he should take further steps in that direction within the framework of the budget for the 1994-1995 biennium.

8. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said that in addition to the 19 States members of the Committee, many States Members of the United Nations had participated actively as observers in the discussions at the Committee's 1993 session. Furthermore, numerous non-governmental organizations in consultative status had also been represented. Following the session, the Committee had made the following recommendations: that consultative status (category II) should be granted to 30 organizations; that 13 organizations should be granted Roster status; that 2 organizations should be reclassified from category II to category I and 8 organizations from the Roster to category II; that the application of one organization should be deferred to the 1995 session; that the application of one organization should be rejected; and that the request by one organization for reclassification from category II to category I should be denied. The decisions had been taken by roll-call vote. Some members of the Committee had felt regret that it had been compelled to break with its tradition of deciding by consensus, although others had felt that it was a more democratic procedure. However, it should be mentioned that all but two of the applications for consultative status had been accepted by consensus.

9. In order to determine which organizations in consultative status had contributed to the work of the Council, the Committee periodically reviewed the quadrennial reports that non-governmental organizations were required to submit. On that basis, the Committee could recommend that the Council should suspend or exclude from consultative status those non-governmental organizations which had not met the requirements as set forth in resolution 1296 (XLIV). Non-governmental organizations on the Roster were not required to submit reports on their activities. In considering the quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category I and category II), the Committee had recommended, by its draft decision II, that consultative status should be withdrawn from eight organizations which had failed to submit a report on their activities for the period 1986-1989 and that six organizations which had submitted unsatisfactory reports should be reclassified from category II to Roster status. Lastly, by its draft decision III, the Committee had established its provisional agenda for its next session, to be held in 1995.

10. Moreover, by decision 1993/214, adopted at its organizational session for 1993, the Economic and Social Council had decided to conduct, with the assistance of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, a general review of current arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, with a view to updating them, if necessary, in particular in the light of recent experience, including that gained during UNCED, to be finalized by 1995. The Council had also requested the Committee to consider the modalities for such a review and to submit its proposals to the Council at its substantive session of 1993.

11. In introducing the draft resolution (E/1993/63 and Corr.2) prepared by the Committee after delicate, complex and lengthy negotiations, she said that its essential feature was the creation of an open-ended working group to carry out the review requested by the Council in decision 1993/214. The draft resolution took into account the need to involve in the review not only the States concerned, but also as many non-governmental organizations as possible, regardless of whether they were in consultative status. In particular, the provisions of the annex ensured that the accreditation procedure would be as flexible as possible while remaining equitable. Those non-governmental organizations that met the criteria set out in paragraph 2 of the annex (those in consultative status with a specialized agency, those on the Roster of the Commission on Sustainable Development and those accredited for participation in conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations and/or their preparatory process) would be exempted from providing any documentation as the information would have already been provided either to a specialized agency or to the secretariat of a specific conference. Only totally new non-governmental organizations would be required to provide the documentation, as it would be necessary to ensure that their aims and purposes were not contrary to the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mandate of the working group reflected Council decision 1993/214; the group would also be able to strengthen the secretariat of the Committee, whose burden was constantly increasing.

12. Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) speaking on behalf of the delegations of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, which had been actively involved in the negotiations prior to the adoption by the Council of decision 1993/214, said that the text of the draft resolution recommended for adoption to the Council by the Secretary-General (E/1993/63 and Corr.2) had the merit of acknowledging the need to review, after 25 years, the rules governing the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations system. However, for that review process to be meaningful, it was necessary to make some amendments, which principally related to the scope of the review and the range of participants in the working group.

13. The review should be proper and comprehensive, and be based on Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 1968. In view of the valuable experience gained from UNCED in Rio and from the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, it should aim to enhance the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of all economic and social bodies of the United Nations. However, some parts of the text only proposed limited changes to the existing rules. While the review might reach such a conclusion, it would be more worthwhile if its mandate was not limited and its conclusions were not prejudged.

14. Concerning participation in the review, Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the creation of an open-ended working group in which all Governments would participate equally, as well as the recommendations by the Committee concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations already in consultative status with the Council. However, the Committee also recommended that non-governmental organizations not currently in consultative status should apply to be accredited to the working group in accordance with procedures outlined in the annex to the draft resolution: such a procedure was unnecessarily complicated. Those non-governmental organizations which had already been accredited to a United Nations conference or to the Commission on Sustainable Development should automatically be invited to participate in the work of the working group and their participation could be guided by the relevant provisions of Council decision 1993/215, which covered the Commission on Sustainable Development.

15. Accordingly, he proposed amending the draft resolution in the following manner: in the third preambular paragraph, the words "the continued validity of" should be deleted: the paragraph would thus read "recognizing resolution 1296 (XLIV) as a useful framework for consultations with non-governmental organizations"; in operative paragraph 1, the words "under the auspices of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" should be deleted and the words "with the assistance of, and input from, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" should be added to the end of the paragraph. That amendment was of both symbolic and practical importance, in that as it had been the Council which had established the relevant non-governmental organization procedures in 1968, it was appropriate that it should be responsible for the review of the rules. Moreover, that arrangement would more accurately fit the respective mandates of the Council and of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. In addition, there was no need to identify the Secretariat unit which would assist in the study; the choice should be left to the Secretary-General.

16. In paragraph 2, the text from "in particular, to introduce consistency" to the end of the paragraph should be deleted and replaced by "to review and update as necessary, Council resolution 1296 (XLIV):". In paragraph 3, the current text from the words "for the work of the Committee" to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by the following text: "between the United Nations Secretariat and non-governmental organizations". The following new paragraph 6 should be inserted: "Invites also non-governmental organizations which have been or are accredited to conferences under the auspices of the United Nations and/or their preparatory process, or to the Commission on Sustainable Development, to participate in accordance with paragraph 2 of ECOSOC decision 1993/215;". Consequently, the four remaining operative paragraphs should be renumbered. The words "through it" should be deleted from the third line of paragraph 8 (formerly paragraph 7). Finally, the annex to the draft resolution would remain unchanged.

17. Mrs. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that she strongly supported the fullest participation of relevant and competent non-governmental organizations in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. In that light, her delegation supported the changes to the draft resolution as proposed by Canada, as they would constitute a distinct improvement over the original version of the draft resolution.

18. The review of the arrangements concerning consultation with non-governmental organizations should lead to a more open and effective process. Her delegation would participate actively in the review.

19. Mr. ELYSSEEV (Ukraine) said that, at a time when efforts were being made to intensify international cooperation, non-governmental organizations should play a far greater role in all spheres of activity of the United Nations. Reform and reorganization of the United Nations economic and social sectors necessarily entailed improved relations with non-governmental organizations. The idea of setting up an open-ended working group was a first step in the right direction. In view of the need to maximize the effectiveness of working relations with non-governmental organizations, the amendments proposed by the delegation of Canada should be adopted, as they were conducive to reinforcing such cooperation.

20. The non-governmental organizations represented an enormous potential that should be mobilized both to seek solutions to numerous problems and to implement the plans and projects of the United Nations. The aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster was a striking example of that: Ukraine, which was in a difficult situation, had appealed not only to the United Nations, but to many non-governmental organizations in order to overcome the difficulties it faced in meeting its medical, and in particular its paediatric, requirements. For that reason, Ukraine intended to propose the convening of an international meeting to mobilize the relevant resources of non-governmental organizations. It was also in the interest of the United Nations system to tap that potential in a balanced and coordinated fashion.

21. Mrs. GRANT (United Kingdom) supported the statement made by the delegation of Belgium on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and in particular the section on the forthcoming review of the arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations system. The United Kingdom would have preferred more open and flexible arrangements than those currently in force to enable non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Council to participate in the review; the amendments proposed by Canada should make that possible.

22. Her delegation did not wish to prejudge the outcome of the review, as it was well aware that some non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and some member States, were perhaps less enthusiastic than her own delegation about relaxing the current arrangements. The planned review would provide an opportunity to hear all sides and, in the last resort, it was the member States that would decide and not the non-governmental organizations. At the current stage, the essential concern was to minimize bureaucracy in order to permit all those who had a contribution to make to participate in the review.

23. The review would constitute a heavy burden for the Secretariat. The new paragraph 6 proposed by the delegation of Canada would make it possible to exempt non-governmental organizations already accredited to some part of the work of the United Nations from accreditation procedure, thereby simplifying the task.

24. She expressed the hope that other member States would support Canada's proposal, i.e. that the results of the planned review should be reported directly to the Council, as it had an overview of all those sectors in which non-governmental organizations could make a positive contribution.

25. Mr. BAIER (Austria) said that no one any longer doubted the value of non-governmental organization participation in the work of the United Nations system: two recent conferences, UNCED in Rio and the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, had afforded conclusive proof of that, regardless of whether the non-governmental organizations participating were in consultative status or not. Accordingly, his delegation had no hesitation in supporting the amendments proposed by Canada, in view of the need for as many non-governmental organizations as possible to take part in the review.

26. Mr. COLOMA (Chile) also expressed the view that non-governmental organizations had proved their value both internationally and domestically, and that with regard to the United Nations system in particular, they henceforth had not merely a supporting, but a leading role to play which, in certain sectors, such as the promotion and protection of human rights, humanitarian assistance, disarmament and environmental protection, was decisive. Moreover, the extremely broad support provided by non-governmental organizations for the preparations for the World Summit on Social Development augured well for the success of the Summit. The non-governmental organizations possessed a capacity to mobilize that enhanced their technical and political action.

27. His delegation approved of the idea, contained in Council decision 1993/214, of a review of the rules applicable to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the activities of the United Nations system. The purpose of that review should be to promote non-governmental organization participation in the discussions and negotiations held within the system, provided it was subject to rules that were clearly spelt out. In order for the proposed working group successfully to carry out the review, non-governmental organizations

should play an active part: it was on that condition that it would be possible to develop arrangements whereby non-governmental organizations could participate in the United Nations system in a manner that met the needs of the contemporary international community.

28. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, while recognizing the importance of the work of non-governmental organizations in different spheres of international life, he felt that greater objectivity and independence should be required of non-governmental organizations.

29. Syria hoped that the Council would turn down the applications for admission to consultative status filed by two non-governmental organizations. The organizations in question were Human Rights Watch, whose systematic criticisms of religion deeply shocked millions of Muslims. Such an organization could not be authorized to take part in the work of the United Nations system.

30. The second organization was the International Lesbian and Gay Association, whose aims were also incompatible with the values and rules of Syrian society. To grant consultative status to such an organization would be tantamount to admitting that it was capable of playing both a legal and social role, which Syrian society could not accept. Syrian society condemned such organizations and his delegation requested that both organizations should be deleted from the list of non-governmental organizations to which the Council had been requested to grant consultative status.

31. Mr. GORELIK (Russian Federation) said that the question of relations between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations possessed many facets, one of which was the status of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and another the resources available within the Secretariat for the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit. At the insistence of the Committee, the Economic and Social Council had decided, at its first session in 1992, to consider increasing the Unit's human and financial resources. The Secretary-General had recognized the importance of providing the Unit with the resources necessary to enable it to function effectively. That was a first step in the right direction. However, his delegation would like information on the other measures to be adopted to implement Council resolution 1992/39.

32. Regarding the open-ended working group to review the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, the Russian Federation had taken note of the proposal submitted by Belgium on behalf of the European Community, whereby the Secretary-General was requested to allocate the resources necessary for the working group to operate in the proposed programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium. According to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution before the Council, the working group would be responsible for examining ways and means of improving practical arrangements for the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. There was a genuine need for that, as it was questionable whether the current arrangements were suitable. If they were not, what should replace them? The working group would have no difficulty in solving problems such as the implementation of the regulations governing the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations. In that regard, the Russian Federation agreed that priority should be given to those non-governmental organizations already in consultative status, but without closing the door on those that wished to acquire that status. However, the working group would face more difficult tasks, such as the preparation of recommendations for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

33. The Russian Federation welcomed the submission of the draft resolution, which it was prepared to accept in its current form. It had taken note of the amendments proposed by Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Changes in circumstances, for example an increase in the number of non-governmental organizations or the development of relations between them and the United Nations, justified amendments to the procedure established by Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

34. The main issue was to provide the working group with the means to operate satisfactorily. In preparing the report it was to submit to the Council in 1994, it should consult the States concerned and the Secretariat as to how it should carry out the comprehensive review required of it. The review should yield practical results, and not be a mere formality. In that respect, his delegation would like to hear the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

35. The working of the Committee itself was not without problems. It would no doubt be necessary to change its methods of work and the frequency of its sessions. The need for that was demonstrated by the fact that the draft resolution under consideration made provision for an inter-sessional meeting.

36. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations proposed granting consultative status to 43 non-governmental organizations and reclassifying or withdrawing consultative status from a number of organizations. The Russian Federation, which had participated in the work of the Committee, to which it attached great importance, proposed that the recommendations should be adopted without a vote.

37. Mr. HARRIS (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations) recalled that the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations was a federation of associations which were essentially groups of citizens, each of them part of the social fabric. As a result, it was difficult to make generalizations and impossible to adopt stereotypes.

38. One of the challenges facing the contemporary world was that of number. There were estimated to be

5,000 international or regional non-governmental organizations, as well as 9,000 others, a spectacular increase since the time when the United Nations had been founded. The Conference could help to provide an overview of all those associations, to put forward ideas and above all principles that could be generally applied.

39. In recent years, peoples' organizations from the developing countries had arrived on the international scene, coinciding with the growth of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It would be erroneous to assess the geographical representation of international non-governmental organizations on the basis of the location of their headquarters or the nationality of their representatives to the United Nations. Many of them were truly representative of the diversity of mankind.

40. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status included international organizations, national organizations with an international vocation, regional organizations and others besides. Hence the need to determine why some national organizations possessed consultative status and not others. A system that clearly identified organizations that were truly international and representative of the global community would undoubtedly be desirable.

41. The current confusion and inequity explained the calls for opening up the system in order to achieve new and dynamic participation by grass-roots organizations in the work of the United Nations, particularly on the great issues of the day: the environment, sustainable development, human rights and peace. One proposed response had been to move outside the framework of resolution 1296 (XLIV), and for non-governmental organizations to organize into coalitions. However, non-governmental organizations were already coalitions of national organizations, some of which were severely discriminated against in favour of more ad hoc groupings formed on bases which were unclear. The answer perhaps lay in networking, which operated on the principle of personal contact. However, it was important not to overlook the requirements of representativeness and legitimacy. It would be wrong to establish practices, however well-intentioned, whose consequence would be to weaken international organizations of people, and thus go directly against the very spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

42. National organizations funded by a variety of sources had recently participated in United Nations conferences. Should that practice be institutionalized? If numerous national organizations dealt with the United Nations directly rather than through international federations, it would be necessary, in view of their number, to impose limits on their participation. Organizations which did not have the resources to attend an event or which lacked financial support were not able to make a written contribution. How was it possible to guarantee transparency with respect to funding arrangements, or procedures for selecting organizations to attend or address United Nations meetings? It would also be necessary to examine the rather difficult requirements for attendance by representative peoples' organizations at major events and at the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. In the first case, the time had come to establish clear procedures which would apply in every case, rather than inventing new ones every time.

43. The proper way to address the problem of participation by non-governmental organizations was to re-examine the very concept of consultative status in order to strengthen it. The Economic and Social Council should work with peoples' organizations to develop a new approach aimed at tapping the latter's enormous potential. The Secretary-General had taken two important initiatives. The first had been to establish a task force under the responsibility of three Under-Secretaries-General with a mandate to achieve coherence in the way in which the Secretariat of the United Nations related to peoples' organizations. The second had been to encourage the participation of peoples' organizations in major United Nations activities in the field, ranging from humanitarian operations to peace-keeping. At the end of the day, such initiatives might produce far more than the language of resolutions.

44. Mr. ROMAZZOTTI (International Movement ATD Fourth World) said that his movement welcomed the possibility offered to non-governmental organizations to participate in the open-ended working group to review the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations. He wished to make two contributions to the discussion.

45. First, it would not be possible fully to achieve the ideal of the United Nations without genuine and authentic participation by the poorest. The aspirations, efforts and thoughts of people who lived in extreme poverty were too seldom heard of in international organizations. On the rare occasions when they were represented, it was thanks to community and non-governmental organizations.

46. Secondly, the current classification of non-governmental organizations in consultative status was a faithful reflection of the nature and form of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Council. It was based on clear rules, which should be maintained. However, the participation of non-governmental organizations with a more pronounced sectoral or regional vocation, in particular at international conferences, should be encouraged. It was no easy matter to solve the problem of resources. For the time being, numerous international non-governmental organizations reflected the experience of the regional and national associations of which they were composed. The question was what was to be done within the United Nations, not only to consolidate that practice, but to progress further.

47. Mr. RYDER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) welcomed the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council to review the provisions of its resolution 1296 (XLIV), since there was a very real risk

that the genuine contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the United Nations might decline.

48. Drawing on its experience as a world organization, the Confederation believed that the principal problem was that of the representativeness of non-governmental organizations. It had learned that one of the most effective means of undermining the authority of a trade union was to refuse to deal with representative negotiating partners and to negotiate with other groups that did not actually have the right to speak for others. The second problem was deregulation—of the type which numerous Governments had undertaken in recent years on the labour market. Ill-considered deregulation had been shown to generate confusion, injustice and hardship. The Confederation had therefore concluded that, in its review, the Council should pay heed to criteria of representativeness, which should be objectively applied, and to the procedures for selecting non-governmental organizations.

49. There was a tendency to open up United Nations events to the greatest possible number of organizations, with little or no checking of their real nature, membership, objectives and competence. Simultaneously, definition of the precise modalities of participation was left to indeterminate persons, on the basis of what seemed reasonable and practical at the time. That was an unacceptable course of action. It was not in the interest of the non-governmental organization community as a whole for purely national organizations, with narrow objectives and ill-defined areas of competence, to be offered the same opportunities to participate in the work of the United Nations as genuinely international non-governmental organizations. The Confederation was well aware that the idea of reviewing consultative status stemmed from the justified concern to ensure the participation of those confronting the major issues of the day at the grass-roots level. Unfortunately, that concern was too often unduly influenced by the spurious distinction between "Northern" and "Southern" non-governmental organizations.

50. There was no doubt that a number of bureaucratic barriers had to be removed, and the role of the social partners, for example at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, strengthened. While resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 1968 might be ripe for review, the basic principles of consultative status it embodied remained sound and addressed major needs not only of non-governmental organizations but of the United Nations itself.

51. Mr. MILLS (International Social Science Council) underscored the unique and irreplaceable role that non-governmental organizations had to play within the United Nations system and the international community as a whole. By way of illustration, he referred to the work carried out by ISSC in preparation for the World Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995. By drawing on its worldwide network of specialists and operating in conjunction with UNESCO and the Economic and Social Council, ISSC was prepared to play a role in connection with that Summit similar to the role played by the International Council of Scientific Unions at the Earth Summit.

52. The contribution of ISSC hinged on a series of world projects in the following areas: the human dimension of worldwide ecological changes; urbanization; the establishment of an early-warning system in cases of ethnic conflict; and conceptual and terminological analysis of language as a decisive factor in social behaviour. Moreover, poverty—one of the three core issues adopted for the World Summit for Social Development—was the subject of a worldwide research programme, whose international secretariat was located at the University of Bergen, in Norway. Within the framework of that programme, ISSC would publish, in cooperation with UNESCO, a study on the survival strategies of poor third-world women.

53. Consideration of the problem of poverty would draw on contributions from social science researchers throughout the world, as well as on regional networks (such as the recently relaunched European and Mediterranean network) and on countries themselves—through bodies such as the Social Research Council in the United States, or the Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation.

54. Moreover, as part of its deliberations on the topic of a "planetary Government", ISSC, with the support of the London School of Economics and UNESCO, was to organize a world symposium on the theme of societies and systems in transition in London in the spring of 1994.

55. Those few examples were concrete illustrations of ISSC's action as a non-governmental organization to promote the emergence of a world in which all men were able to live in peace and dignity.

56. Mrs. BRIDEL (Zonta International) said that the rules governing relations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status had proved their worth. She expressed the earnest hope that the result of the review of the arrangements established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) would not be to call into question a system that gave overall satisfaction. However, recent trends had demonstrated the need, particularly in respect of major world or regional events and conferences, to widen the circle of participant non-governmental organizations. While there was certainly a need for broader participation, care should be taken to ensure that it did not lead to a reduction in the rights of organizations in consultative status. Furthermore, it would be necessary to determine specific criteria for the accreditation of other organizations, in order to ensure they did not become too numerous and to preserve a degree of balance between regions. The information required to obtain accreditation could be that set out in the annex to the draft resolution.

Above all, it would be necessary to adopt uniform rules of participation for all conferences.

57. With regard to the controversial issue of the representativeness of international non-governmental organizations whose headquarters were in Western countries, she pointed out that Zonta International, whose headquarters was in Chicago, was none the less representative of all its members on the five continents; moreover, in all those countries where it was present, its clubs had links with the local communities, which they were there to serve and with whose needs they were familiar.

58. Mrs. YEDOWITZ (Soroptimist International) said that it was gratifying that, at a time when the spotlight was on "people's participation" and on "development with a human face", the United Nations was anxious to associate an increasing number of non-governmental organizations in its activities. However, there was a risk that the result of that expansion might be to lose sight of the specific contribution of organizations in consultative status. Already, the "open door" policy followed by the Economic and Social Council was proving detrimental to the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1296 (XLIV) in the case of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Moreover, some of the rules adopted for participation in the work of that Commission (elimination of the right to have written statements circulated as official documents and the obligation for non-governmental organizations to group their oral statements by selecting a joint spokesperson) were actually curtailing the rights to which non-governmental organizations were entitled under resolution 1296 (XLIV). While it was indeed important to establish rules for accreditation and participation in United Nations meetings and conferences, those arrangements should not vary from one conference to another or entail a reduction in the rights of non-governmental organizations.

59. Soroptimist International was gratified to note that the validity of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) was reaffirmed in the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The principle of categories should be retained as a means of determining the competence of non-governmental organizations and their usefulness to the work of the Council. However, the criteria for classification needed to be clarified and more stringently adhered to. The proposed review should be carried out with the broadest possible participation of the Member States and of representatives of the numerous specialized agencies that had already developed their own arrangements for productive relationships with non-governmental organizations. For their part, non-governmental organizations should play a major role—perhaps under the leadership of the president of the Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations—within the planned working group. Moreover, in document E/C.2/1993/NGO/2, Soroptimist International had put forward a number of suggestions that could usefully contribute to the debate on the means of reinforcing the consultative machinery. It was to be hoped that the debate would clarify the role of non-governmental organizations by demonstrating that it was not limited to providing strong advocacy and a public support system for the activities undertaken by the United Nations system.

60. Mr. HAGMAJER (World Federation of United Nations Associations) said that he wished to make some comments on the draft resolution concerning the review of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations. In the view of his Federation, the fundamental purpose of the review should be to expand and facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations, by strengthening the rights of non-governmental organizations in consultative status and extending them to other non-governmental organizations. A paragraph clearly stating that purpose should be added to the draft resolution.

61. In paragraph 1 of the annex to the draft resolution it was stated that non-governmental organizations in consultative status would be accredited to the working group. However, it should be emphasized that the term "accreditation" was used nowhere in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), and that the very fact of being granted consultative status gave a non-governmental organization the automatic right to participate. Consequently, the Federation requested that paragraphs 1, 7 and 9 of the annex should be deleted. It also questioned the need for paragraph 6 of the annex. Although it was true that non-governmental organizations had no negotiating role to play, such a provision might be used to prevent them from observing the proceedings of the working group. Regarding paragraphs 8 and 10 of the annex, on the right to speak and the distribution of documents, the Federation believed that non-governmental organizations which met the criteria set out in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 should be allowed to participate in the work of the working group on the same basis and with the same rights as non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

62. When it had finalized its review, the open-ended working group should report to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which was the body most suited to deal with relations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The Federation insisted on that point. Lastly, while agreeing that the general review should be completed by 1995, it considered that the only recommendations to be made to the General Assembly in the light of the review process, as proposed in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, should be those relating to international conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

63. Mr. D. BLASCO (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) said that his organization firmly believed that the Economic and Social Council should take full responsibility for the review of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations and not leave the matter to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which had so far had a purely administrative role. Moreover, the review process

should reconsider the role and composition of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, with a view to making it a forum where non-governmental organizations could dialogue with the United Nations on substantive issues. That would in turn entail a new role for the Secretariat's Non-Governmental Organizations' Unit.

64. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies wished to propose various amendments to the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/63 and Corr.2. The third preambular paragraph should read: "Recognizing the useful role played so far by Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as a framework for consultation with non-governmental organizations". Paragraph 1 should read: "Decides to establish an open-ended working group consisting of representatives of all interested States". Paragraph 3 should read "Also requests the open-ended working group, in accordance with its decision 1993/214, to examine the role and composition of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and ways and means of improving practical arrangements for its work and of strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations' Unit of the Secretariat". Paragraph 7 should read: "Invites the open-ended working group to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994". The International Council of Voluntary Agencies was gratified to note that the Government of Canada had proposed several amendments in line with its own.

65. Finally, he expressed the hope that the non-governmental organization community at large would be actively involved in the proposed review process, so that the machinery for consultation decided on would ensure the broadest possible access by all non-governmental organizations to the work and deliberations of the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

34th meeting

Friday, 16 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.34

AGENDA ITEM 10

Non-governmental organizations (*continued*)

1. Mr. WIREDU (International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations) said that, despite recent efforts to make the work of United Nations bodies more accessible to a wide range of newly established non-governmental organizations and to broaden their participation in the negotiating process, there had also been other, more worrying, developments. Such was the case with the adoption in the Commission on Sustainable Development of measures curtailing the rights of non-governmental organizations in consultative status. Another disturbing trend was to regard non-governmental organizations as "northern" institutions simply because their headquarters were in the northern hemisphere. In fact, in many of those organizations the majority of members were from the third world. If those countries were often underrepresented at United Nations conferences, it was generally due to a lack of resources. No one could fail to be alarmed by the establishment of support mechanisms which prevented members of international non-governmental organizations from the third world from receiving financial assistance to participate in United Nations conferences.

2. It was common sense that admitting large numbers of national and local non-governmental organizations to consultative status was not an appropriate solution for creating effective and representative consultation mechanisms. However, in view of the growing interest of the newly established non-governmental organizations in United Nations activities, there was an urgent need to review the procedures for obtaining consultative status, which were currently far too slow and bureaucratic. Streamlining those procedures would require more substantial funding for the non-governmental organization unit and it would also be necessary for the Committee on

Non-Governmental Organizations to be able to meet at least once a year to put forward its recommendations. The aim of such reforms should be among other things to encourage participation by non-governmental organizations from the southern hemisphere, in particular through regional and subregional networks.

3. Indeed, all the existing provisions relating to the consultative process needed to be reviewed with the aim of creating mechanisms for greater participation by non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system, including specialized agencies and bodies like the World Bank, the IMF and GATT, whose activities had a considerable impact on the lives of people in the south but were often insufficiently transparent to non-governmental organizations. The Economic and Social Council might use such a review as the basis for recommendations to those institutions.

4. The international youth non-governmental organizations were anxious to play their part in creating a more just and equitable world and were planning a number of major initiatives for 1995. It was for the organizations within the United Nations system to benefit as far as possible from their contribution.

5. Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico) said that no further evidence was needed of the vital role of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations system, whether in the field of human rights or the environment, to mention only two examples. His delegation welcomed the work done by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and fully endorsed the proposed draft resolution (see E/1993/63 and Corr.2). It was of the opinion that the Council should undertake a detailed review of the provisions of resolution 1296 (XLIV) and strengthen the Committee's mandate, as well as examine the issue of non-governmental organization participation in other major bodies within the system. The proposed working group should be accountable to the Council rather than the Committee. His delegation intended to take an active part in the work of the group, in view of the importance that Mexico attached to the activities of non-governmental organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued**)

ELEVENTH MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

6. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Eleventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, scheduled to take place at Headquarters from 23 August to 3 September 1993, should be held at Geneva from 4 to 15 October 1993. In the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the proposal.

It was so decided [decision 1993/228].

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES AND COORDINATION

7. The PRESIDENT proposed that the sixteenth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, scheduled to take place at Headquarters during the second half of 1993, should be held at Geneva from 13 to 16 September 1993. In the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the proposal.

It was so decided [decision 1993/229].

INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM ON THE AGENDA

8. The PRESIDENT said that Canada had requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled ''Elections'' on the agenda of the current session, with a view to filling a vacant seat on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the group of Western European and Other States. In the absence of any objections, he would take it that the members of the Council wished to adopt the proposal to include the additional item on the Council's agenda.

It was so decided [decision 1993/221].

ELECTION OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

9. The PRESIDENT, referring to the election of a new member to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, said the Secretariat had been informed that the group of Western European and Other States had nominated Canada as a candidate for the vacant seat, the term of office to start from the date of the election.

10. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the Canadian candidate and defer the election of two other members of the group until a later date.

It was so decided [decision 1993/230].

AGENDA ITEM 5

Programme and related questions:

(*a*) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

11. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of members of the Council to paragraph 2 of document E/1993/67, in

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* Resumed from the 18th meeting.

which the Secretariat stated that, owing to a delay, the Committee for Programme and Coordination would not be in a position to consider the proposed programme budget until the second part of its thirty-third session, which was due to be held from 30 August to 17 September 1993. The Council would therefore be unable to consider agenda item 5 (*a*).

(*b*) Calendar of conferences

12. Mr BUNCH (Chief, Programme and Documentation Section, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), introducing documents E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 and Add.1 containing the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields, mentioned that an earlier version of the calendar had been submitted to the Committee on Conferences in May 1993. The letter published with the symbol E/1993/79 contained the comments of the Committee on Conferences on that calendar.

13. He went on to provide additional information that had reached him after the preparation of documents E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 and Add.1. The forty-first session of the UNDP Governing Council (calendar item 88) would be held at Geneva from 6 to 24 June 1994. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (item 97) would meet at Geneva from 18 to 29 July 1994 and, in 1995 (item 227), would meet at Geneva from 7 to 18 July 1995. There was an error in the Arabic, Chinese and English versions of document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1/Add.1: all meetings listed from entry 169 to the end related to 1995, not to 1994.

14. Paragraph 7 of document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 contained a list of meetings for which the mandates had not yet been approved when the calendar was being prepared. It was to be noted that the Council, when considering the report of the Statistical Commission, had already approved the mandates for the two meetings mentioned in subparagraphs (*b*) and (*c*) (special sessions of the Statistical Commission and of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, both in 1994). It was planned to hold the first of those sessions from 22 to 25 February 1994 at Headquarters in New York; the other was to be held at Geneva during the second half of 1994 but the exact dates had not yet been fixed.

15. Paragraph 8 of the same document listed a number of working groups whose mandates, as yet unapproved, would be considered by the Social Committee and subsequently by the Council meeting in plenary. Once the mandates had been approved, the proposed dates for the meetings of the working groups in question would be submitted to the Committee on Conferences and then included in the calendar.

16. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 dealt with the biennialization of the sessions of the Council's subsidiary bodies. Paragraph 4 contained a list of bodies that currently met on an annual rather than a biennial basis; wherever possible, a reference was given in brackets to the resolution or decision authorizing such annual periodicity. In that connection, he would draw the attention of Council members to the letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (E/1993/79) expressing concern at the tendency among an increasing number of subsidiary bodies to request derogations from the biennialization of meetings rule. Paragraph 5 of document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 reflected that concern.

17. Mrs. ROSSIGNOL (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 showed that there was good cause for concern at the rapidly growing number of meetings and conferences. The European Community and its member States were prepared to cooperate with any delegation wishing to respond to the call in paragraph 5 of that document for further consideration of the question of the biennialization of the meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies. It appeared from the document that a considerable number of subsidiary bodies were not complying with the recommendations of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations. The European Community considered that requests from subsidiary bodies of the Council for derogation from biennialization should be justified.

18. With regard to the rate of utilization of conference services, the European Community and its member States fully supported the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences: bodies whose rate of utilization was less than the indicative rate for three consecutive years should adjust their conference service needs downwards.

19. Moreover, the Committee on Conferences was less and less capable of fulfilling its mandate, whereby the Committee was to be consulted in the preparation of the calendar of conferences and give its approval. It was therefore no longer able to play an effective role in the planning of conferences. That was an unsatisfactory situation. The European Community wondered whether the Council, when planning a meeting, might not consult the Secretariat, which could then warn the Member States of the possible excess workload for conference services. The European Community and its member States were, at all events, prepared to consider any action that might reduce the duration of conferences. In that context, she noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of resolution 47/202 A, had requested the Secretariat to inform all bodies at the opening of each session of the notional costs per hour of meeting time.

20. Lastly, the European Community and its member States deplored the fact that, in practice, the six-week rule tended to be the exception.

21. The decision by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its 1992 substantive session, not to take into consideration documents published after the opening of the session should serve as a warning to the Secretariat.

22. Mr. GORELIK (Russian Federation) found it regrettable that the Council could not consider the programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium at the present session. The Russian Federation hoped that such a situation would not recur.

23. His country approved the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995. The question of holding annual or biennial conferences of the subsidiary bodies of the Council should be studied in the light of the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Lastly, the Russian Federation would like to have information on the financial implications of convening additional conferences not included in the document under discussion. It hoped that the budget would not grow at an above-normal rate.

24. Mr. DOSS (Observer for Egypt) said that document E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 mentioned the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled to be held from 11 to 22 April 1994. His delegation drew the Council's attention to the draft resolution that was being prepared and to the various amendments it had submitted thereto. On adoption of that resolution, the date of the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission and the date and duration of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development would have to be amended in the calendar of conferences.

25. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) drew attention to the fact that the Council would only have the opportunity to discuss the problem of the growing number of meetings under the present agenda item. It was important to bear in mind the Secretariat's concern in the face of that growth, which increased the workload in servicing meetings and in preparing documents.

26. Mr. BUNCH (Chief, Programme and Documentation Planning Section, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said in reply to the observer for Egypt that the calendar of conferences was not prepared on a once-for-all basis but was constantly changing. Following approval by the Economic and Social Council, it went back to the Committee on Conferences for re-examination before being submitted to the General Assembly.

27. Mr. SCHONLEITER (Germany) shared Mr. Stoby's view that the Council should take the opportunity to have a serious look at the problem of the rapid growth in the number of meetings and the increasing workload for the Secretariat arising from the preparation of documentation.

28. The PRESIDENT, at the suggestion of Mr. Stoby, requested the Secretariat to draw up a list of the documents that would be required for the next session of the Economic and Social Council, so that members of the Council could form an idea of the corresponding workload for the Secretariat.

29. Lastly, he proposed that the Council should adopt the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 and Add.1), as amended orally.

It was so decided [decision 1993/231].

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

35th meeting

Monday, 19 July 1993, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.35

AGENDA ITEM 11

United Nations University

1. Mr. de SOUZA (Rector, United Nations University) said that the report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1992 (E/1993/40) was a departure from previous reports. The new presentation provided a response to two questions: what was it that distinguished the work of the University from that of other United Nations institutions, and how could the University contribute to solving the enormous, and sometimes tragic, problems of mankind today? When the University's new

headquarters building had been inaugurated in Tokyo in February 1993, the Secretary-General had provided some answers. First of all, he had said that the University must become a reservoir of ideas, a source of information and understanding available to the United Nations system in its entirety. He had also pointed out that preventive capacity was based largely on research and access to information and that the University could provide the necessary analytical tools and, in that sense, occupy a focal position in the world system.

2. With regard to the first question, the report sought to provide a better understanding of what the University was. Thus, rather than list its discrete research projects, the Council had wished to show the pragmatic, integrated approach adopted by the University, which had already announced its intention to work towards greater coherence in its academic agenda within the framework of a new institutional strategy for dealing with major world problems. Its methodology of research and reflection was based on a global network of scholars and academic institutions. That was what distinguished it from other United Nations bodies.

3. As far as current world problems were concerned, the University considered that there was a need for integrative thinking at all levels and for greater interaction between operational activities and research and analytical capacities. The report showed that the University had produced a significant body of research on certain problems facing mankind, but he would focus on the problems of multilateralism and the environment.

4. The University was undertaking a review of multilateralism, a concept that was emerging with renewed vigour in theoretical and in practical terms. The University had undertaken a series of studies entrusted to an international network of scholars and was working on a plan of action for academic initiatives. It was also planning for a project on the peace and security functions of the United Nations in the post-cold war era. For that purpose it had held a meeting in New York in April 1993. The anticipated outcome was a means of formulating long-term training and research activities focused on the new functions assigned to the United Nations in that field.

5. As to the environment, the consensus reached at UNCED would be a milestone in the history of mankind. It showed a shared faith in scientific insight, improved technological capacities and political will, which, combined with financial resources, could initiate a movement in support of the sustainability of the environment and human well-being. In connection with implementation measures and capacity-building, the University was utilizing its particular potential under a major programme tentatively called "UNU Agenda 21".

6. The University's originality lay not only in its methodology but also in its structure, which reinforced the interdisciplinarity crucial to the study of complex problems. Its institutional configuration and intellectual capacity strengthened the University's performance in topics relevant to the United Nations. In the case of the environment, for example, one of its networks would look at the problem of governance, one of the five main themes in a preparatory programme to be launched at its research and training centre at Barcelona. To give another example, the Institute of Advanced Studies in Japan would be playing a strategic role in the University's operations by providing strong intellectual support for the programming and coordinating role of the University Centre.

7. A university was effective only in so far as it disseminated knowledge. UNU had published over 300 works in the year, including three which he considered to be exemplary. *The Uncertain Quest—Science, Technology and Development*, soon to come off the press, offered an extensive overview of the impact of science and technology in the past 25 years. *Environmental Change and International Law: New Challenges and Dimensions* built a case for improved international instruments to deal with the preservation of the biosphere. *The Impact of Technology on Human Rights: Global Case-studies* explored the way in which modern technologies had both enhanced and worsened the human rights situation and contained very timely warnings of the dangers of technology.

8. UNU differed from other universities in that it was not discipline-based but pursued interdisciplinary problem-solving research on issues of world politics. The idea of making it a United Nations think-tank had already been present in the minds of its founders. That idea was developing little by little, as was seen in the work done by the World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki and the University Centre in Tokyo, which were carrying out strategic research on pressing problems by drawing on a team of well-established scholars and on existing sources in order to respond to urgent needs. They were also carrying out long-term research on global issues, gradually developing an in-house competence which would make them centres of scientific expertise. In addition, they were "a forum of new thinking", a source of information for scholars and the United Nations system.

9. Naturally, the University needed more resources than it had at present. It had the financial and moral support of the Japanese Government, which had not only made the initial contribution to its Endowment Fund but had further offered it a magnificent building in the centre of Tokyo where the other United Nations bodies in Japan could be located, thereby facilitating cooperation. It was to be hoped that the Japanese Government would continue to display the same generosity, but the size and implications of the University's projects required the international community to join Japan in providing the finance necessary for its success.

10. Mr. SHINODA (Japan) said that the new building donated by his country gave the United Nations University the increased visibility envisaged in General Assem-

bly resolution 47/200. From its new headquarters, the University would be able to exert worldwide influence.

11. The General Assembly had also wished the Council of the University to intensify its efforts to promote the activities of the University and make them more widely and better known. The report under consideration (E/1993/40) showed that that had been done and also clearly indicated the direction in which the University was moving. However, it would be useful to know what the Council of the University had done in those areas in which the General Assembly had hoped for improvements: for example, what it had done to continue to contribute to the effective management of the University, including the administration of its funds. Had thought also been given to reducing the frequency of its meetings?

12. Among the many initiatives taken by the University, Japan particularly appreciated the meeting it had organized in New York in April 1993, on the subject of the peace and security functions of the United Nations in the post-cold war era. The participants had concluded that one of the major tasks of the University was to secure interaction between research and policy, and to establish a dialogue between academics and United Nations personnel, in other words, to act as a bridge between the practical and the theoretical.

13. His delegation was of the view that the University must become more directly involved in coordination within the United Nations system, for example, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary body, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

14. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) said he had noted with interest the latest report of the Council of the United Nations University (E/1993/40), a report whose new presentation highlighted the integrated approach that governed the execution of the University's very broad range of activities. Basing itself on the guidelines laid down in its second medium-term perspective, the University had chosen, as one of the central themes of its research and training programmes, the study of global change in the contemporary world. In that regard, mention must be made of the considerable contribution of UNU to the debate on multilateralism, considered from the standpoint of economic, ecological and technological interdependence or of the deterioration in human living standards. Moreover, that contribution was not only a theoretical one, for the University had conducted a number of studies on the specific problems in the fields of the environment, the world economy and demography, to cite only a few examples.

15. A forum in which researchers and academics from throughout the world could come together and exchange ideas, the University also served as a link between the bodies in the United Nations system and, at the same time, enabled them to make use of the results of the work done in scientific circles in proposing innovative solutions. The University's contribution to the preparation of Agenda 21 was a good illustration of that role. Strengthened by that experience, the University must now also play a part in the implementation of the decisions taken at UNCED.

16. In the field of science and technology, in addition to studying the new technologies from the macroeconomic and sociological standpoints, the University was also continuing its extremely valuable work of disseminating know-how (particularly in micro-electronics and informatics). Also notable were its initiatives with regard to the granting of fellowships and training of executives.

17. On balance, the picture was thus a positive one. It was regrettable, however, that the University had not yet devoted more attention to studying and finding solutions to the problems of the countries whose economies were in transition. Care should also be taken to ensure that all Member States of the United Nations University had access to the findings of any research conducted under the aegis of the University that might be of interest to them.

18. Mr. ZHANG Xiaoan (China) said he welcomed the report on UNU (E/1993/40), which appeared to have studied the major issues commanding the attention of the world community, and in particular problems in the four areas identified in the report: multilateralism, the environment, science and technology, and poverty.

19. His Government had always attached great importance to the University's work. It had contributed $5 million to the UNU International Institute for Software Technology set up in Macao in 1991. The organizational work was now largely completed and, at its first meeting, the Institute had adopted a one-year programme of action. It was a good beginning, and China would continue to lend its full support to the work of the Institute.

20. Mr. de SOUZA (Rector, United Nations University), responding to comments by various speakers, began by pointing out that the University had involved itself in the economic problems of the countries in transition in the context of the activities of the World Institute for Development Economics Research. Two works on the subject had also been published, and the University would continue its work on the question through seminars, training courses and so on.

21. With regard to the frequency of its sessions, the UNU Council had held only one session in 1992, and the 1993 session had been held in February so as to coincide with the inauguration of the University's new premises. An account of the work of that session would be given in the report to appear in early 1994. The UNU Council would do its best to hold only one session each year, on the understanding that its Bureau would be able to meet between sessions if necessary.

22. The UNU International Institute for Software Technology had received substantial financial contributions from China and Portugal. The Institute's temporary premises had just opened in the Territory of Macao,

whose Government had announced a $20 million contribution towards the construction of the Institute's headquarters.

23. The University was financed entirely by voluntary contributions, some of which were paid to the Endowment Fund, whilst others were earmarked for specific operational activities. Currently, the Endowment Fund had been promised contributions totalling $269 million and $222 million of that amount had been received. The Fund's resources were managed by the Investments Committee of the United Nations in New York. Research and training activities were funded from investment income. The fall in interest rates and fluctuations in exchange rates thus had a direct effect on the volume of the University's resources, making increased financial support by all countries all the more necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued**)

24. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), introducing the draft resolution concerning the fourth replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (E/1993/L.27), spoke briefly of the specific function of IFAD as the only international financial institution whose exclusive mandate was to help the least favoured groups in rural areas to increase their productivity and so improve their food security, while making the poor countries less dependent on imports of food. In 1986 IFAD had launched its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, aimed at mobilizing $300 million to assist the African countries in combating those scourges. From 1978 to 1992 IFAD had provided loans and grants totalling $3.1 billion to support 337 projects in 96 developing countries.

25. IFAD donors fell into three categories: category I, consisting of the industrialized countries; category II, comprising the members of OPEC; and category III, made up of developing countries that were in principle recipients of IFAD aid, but that also contributed to the replenishment of the Fund. Each of those three categories had one third of the total number of votes in the Fund's governing body.

26. The negotiations for the fourth replenishment of the Fund involved all the countries in categories I and II and 12 countries in category III, in accordance with the rules of procedure for the consultations.

27. The Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Cairo in late June 1993, had adopted a resolution in which they had urged countries to demonstrate their political will to strengthen multilateral support with a view to solving the problems of hunger and poverty by ensuring that the fourth replenishment was concluded rapidly. Draft resolution E/1993/L.27, presented by the Group of African States, drew on that text.

28. A number of amendments to the draft resolution had been made on completion of the consultations. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "Recalling further" were to be replaced by "Bearing also in mind". Operative paragraph 2 was worded as follows: "*Appeals* to all States members of the Fund, especially industrialized countries, countries able to do so and the traditional, etc."

29. In conclusion, he invited other countries to become sponsors of the draft resolution and expressed the hope that it would command broad consensus in the Council.

30. Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile) stressed the seriousness of the problems facing the developing countries in agricultural production and the marketing of foodstuffs. The situation was particularly alarming in Africa, the only region of the world in which, instead of increasing, food production had actually fallen by 13 per cent in 1992. Against that background, it was all the more important to increase the volume of resources channelled into agricultural production through IFAD and other bodies, so as to enable countries, particularly in Africa, to achieve self-sufficiency in food, thereby avoiding crises that made them even more dependent on the assistance provided by United Nations bodies. For those reasons, his delegation fully supported draft resolution E/1993/L.27, and announced that it wished to become one of the sponsors.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

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* Resumed from the 29th meeting.

36th meeting

Monday, 19 July 1993, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.36

AGENDA ITEM 9

Sustainable development

1. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), introducing the item, said that as the parent intergovernmental body of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Council had an important role to play in ensuring that the decisions of UNCED were reflected in the work of the United Nations system. The concept of sustainable development impinged on the work of virtually all the economic and social organizations in the system.

2. The Commission's first substantive session (E/1993/25/Add.1) had been a success and had launched it well on its way towards meeting the high expectations placed on it at UNCED and subsequently in the General Assembly. There had been some concern after the Rio Summit that the commitments made there were being forgotten. The tasks before the Commission were challenging and the world economic system could not be changed overnight. However, the Commission's first session proved that the spirit of Rio was still alive.

3. The discussions at the high-level ministerial meeting had been productive and had clearly shown strong political support. Another important aspect was that the meeting had enhanced interaction with the non-governmental community, which had played a major role at UNCED and was continuing to show interest in its follow-up.

4. The question of finance and technological transfer was perhaps one of the most difficult issues the Rio Summit had had to consider and would remain an area in which political goodwill would be required to find constructive solutions that placed in the hands of the developing countries the means required by them to implement the objectives of sustainable development.

5. An important outcome of the Commission's session had been the proposal to convene two ad hoc working groups on the financial and technical aspects of specific areas of Agenda 21. The purpose of the groups was to place before the Commission a strong professional assessment of what had to be done, the adequacy of existing efforts and mechanisms, and related policy conclusions on which action would be taken by the Commission.

6. One of the concrete manifestations of the sense of partnership between the North and the South was the announcement by the delegations of Colombia and the United States that they would work together to offer joint support for the ad hoc group on technology transfer. He also wished to point out that the Bureau and the Secretary-General had been entrusted with the task of playing an active role during the inter-sessional period by coordinating the preparations for the two ad hoc groups and other relevant elements.

7. It was not enough to think of the follow-up to Rio purely in terms of action at the international level. The bulk of the work to implement Agenda 21 had to be carried out at the national level in both developed and developing countries.

8. A number of recommendations to the Commission related to the financial aspects of Agenda 21, the transfer of technology, cooperation and capacity-building. It was important that those crucial issues should be considered in the Commission in relation to specific sectoral goals. Such an approach would enable it to formulate realistic policy frameworks for the means of implementing Agenda 21 and its components, thus contributing to finance and technology discussions held in other intergovernmental bodies. The effectiveness of the Commission as an intergovernmental focal point for monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 could be comprehensively assessed only at a later stage when some of those commitments were translated into action and when the progress achieved at the national, regional and international levels was examined.

9. The Commission's first session had set an action-oriented course and provided strong political impetus to the future work to be carried out by Governments, international organizations and all other parties.

10. Certain specific decisions and recommendations of the Commission required special attention and action on the part of the Council. The Commission had agreed on its multi-thematic programme of work, which would enable it during the next three years to undertake a first round assessment and analysis of progress achieved in the implementation of the main chapters and programme

areas of Agenda 21 and other results of UNCED. That would be followed by a more comprehensive review in 1997, leading to the proposed special session of the General Assembly planned for that year. In carrying out its programme of work, the Commission should consider in an integrated manner the linkages between different sustainable development objectives.

11. The Commission had specifically requested the Council to consider measures aimed at promoting productive interaction between itself and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council as well as with other intergovernmental organs and organizations in the United Nations system.

12. Given the nature of Agenda 21, it was likely that many of its elements would be the subject of discussion and action in other intergovernmental bodies. It was therefore important to avoid parallelism in the various activities and duplication of responsibility and to ensure that the Commission benefited fully from the results of work carried out in other intergovernmental bodies in the specific areas related to sustainable development.

13. A major contribution by the Commission should be to add value to what was being done elsewhere in the system. The Commission had invited the Council to consider intergovernmental machinery related to science and technology in the coordination segment of its substantive session in 1994 with a view to clarifying the distribution of labour between the various bodies involved in science and technology in the system. While the Commission generally supported recent decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning the follow-up to UNCED, it called for measures by the governing bodies of the relevant organs of the system, and at the inter-agency level, to incorporate sustainable development considerations in their programmes and activities.

14. Lastly, the Commission's decision to establish two inter-sessional ad hoc groups on finance and technology transfer would involve financial implications and specific financial arrangements for them would have to be approved by the Council.

15. Mr. ISMAIL (Malaysia), Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, said that the Commission's first substantive session (E/1993/25/Add.1), in June 1993 had produced seven important decisions. The first concerned the future work of the Commission and covered issues involving reporting procedures to the Commission and organizational matters.

16. The second decision dealt with guidelines to the secretariat for organizing information provided by Governments. The decision clearly signalled the desire of countries to exchange information and experiences relating to sustainable development activities at the national level.

17. The third decision encompassed the multi-year thematic programme of work. The cross-sectoral clusters would be reviewed on an annual basis and the sectoral clusters within the three-year schedule so that all areas of Agenda 21 could be covered by 1996. That would enable the Commission to undertake an overall review of Agenda 21 implementation at its 1997 session in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly.

18. The fourth decision on finance had established an inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working group composed of Governments, which would nominate experts in order to assist the Commission. In addition, the Commission had expressed concern that the general response to UNCED recommendations and commitments regarding funding fell significantly short of expectations. The Commission emphasized that the inadequacy of financial resources remained a major constraint for effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the phasing-in of sustainable development. The effective and early implementation of all the commitments contained in chapter 33 of Agenda 21 was essential. The cost of inaction could outweigh the financial cost of implementing Agenda 21.

19. The importance of ensuring a supportive international economic climate and domestic economic and financial activities conducive to sustained economic growth and development in order to achieve sustainability had been emphasized by many delegations. In that context, the Commission had highlighted the importance of making further progress in such areas as debt relief, in particular for developing countries, and encouraging free trade and market access. The Commission had also stressed the importance of promoting sustainable development through trade liberalization and had recognized that an open, equitable, secure and predictable multilateral trading system was critical for achieving sustainable development. The Commission had voiced strong support for an early, balanced, comprehensive and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round that would reverse protectionism, improve market access, particularly for developing country exports, and bring about further liberalization and expansion of world trade.

20. With regard to the Global Environmental Facility, the Commission had welcomed the decision by the participants to conclude negotiations on replenishment and restructuring by December 1993. In that connection, the Commission had stressed the importance of improved transparency in the Global Environmental Facility, sufficient flexibility to expand the scope and coverage of the Facility to relevant programme areas of Agenda 21 with global environmental benefits, regular reporting of the Facility to the Commission on its activities, according non-governmental organizations an improved consultative status, and ensuring access to and disbursement of funds on mutually agreed criteria.

21. A similar outcome in relation to the establishment of an inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working group had emerged from the fifth decision pertaining to technology. The Commission had decided that there was particular need to focus on the dissemination of information, the removal of barriers and creation of incentives, financial support and endogenous capacity-building. The

Commission had emphasized the need for effective interaction and collaborative arrangements with intergovernmental bodies which were of special relevance to the work of the Commission in relation to technology. The Commission had also underlined the importance of dialogue and interaction with relevant intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other major groups to encourage new forms of technology cooperation and partnership in technological areas of particular relevance to developing countries.

22. At its meeting on 1 July 1993, the Bureau had agreed that the ad hoc working group on finance would be composed of Governments, which would nominate their experts. The group would be open-ended and experts nominated need not be government officials. Experts from other non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations concerned with finance should also participate. Support should be given to experts, particularly those from developing countries, on the lines of the arrangements for ad hoc working groups of functional commissions.

23. The arrangements for the ad hoc working group on technology would be similar to those for the finance group. It was essential that the private sector should participate in the work of the group. The groups would meet by February 1994.

24. The sixth decision involved the need for effective inter-agency coordination in the multilateral system to ensure that sustainable development principles were incorporated in the system's programmes and processes.

25. A seventh decision related to the provisional agenda for the next session.

26. The high-level meeting had provided an opportunity for a frank exchange of views and a dialogue on the various issues. The participants had reaffirmed their commitment to the growing global partnership for sustainable development and emphasized the Commission's dynamic role as a central political forum for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21. The high-level segment had provided a strong political impetus to the Commission's activities.

27. The issues discussed at the high-level meeting were clearly spelt out in the Chairman's summary (E/1993/25/Add.1, chap. II). Two points he would emphasize were that it had been agreed that the Commission should also serve as a multilateral institutional focal point for addressing issues related to unsustainable production and consumption patterns and lifestyles in their relation to sustainable development, a topic which was not being addressed by any other intergovernmental body within the United Nations system, and also that a number of Governments had offered to host follow-up meetings, on issues relevant to the multi-year thematic programme of work, during the inter-sessional period. The Commission was mandated to meet once a year, but, clearly, much work needed to be done during the inter-sessional period. The Bureau and the Secretary-General would be undertaking a series of consultations in that regard. Some donor countries had announced welcome increases in the level of assistance to developing countries.

28. It was clear from the outcome of the Commission's first substantive session that the Bureau would be required to engage in a number of follow-up activities. They had already met on 1 July 1993 and would meet again on 23 July. He had written to those Governments which had indicated their interest in hosting meetings offering advice and guidelines in order to avoid duplication of effort and provide coordination. Based on the successful experience of the first session, the Bureau considered the high-level meeting for the second substantive session should last two days and be scheduled towards the end of the session.

29. The outcome of the first session was extremely gratifying. The ministers and other participants had been determined to cooperate in promoting sustainable development. Notwithstanding their diverse backgrounds and differing points of view, they had been unanimous in expressing determination to work together. The intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had also played a constructive role and made a useful contribution to the work of the Commission's first session. He hoped the partnership would continue in the years ahead. He believed the Commission was in a strong position to serve as a catalyst, consensus builder and facilitator in addressing issues relating to environment and development. Given the multidisciplinary and multisectoral nature of the issues involved, the Commission had taken a major step forward by providing the necessary leadership. The Bureau stood ready to work closely with delegations and regional and other groups, during the inter-sessional period, in order to prepare for the Commission's second session in May 1994.

30. Mr. URBAIN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that it had grown to be universally recognized that development models which led to the exhaustion of resources and the irreversible pollution of the environment were no longer tenable. That was the consensus that had emerged from UNCED. The concept of sustainable development had become unchallengeable. Economic development and respect for the environment must now go hand in hand.

31. The members of the European Community were particularly gratified that the Secretary-General had taken those new priorities into account in restructuring the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat and in establishing the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Department would be responsible for preparing the documentation which would serve as the basis for the work of the intergovernmental bodies. Ensuring that the link between environment and development was recognized throughout the system would be no easy task. The members of the European

Community would give the Under-Secretary-General and his fellow workers their full support, while recognizing that the efforts and activities of member States and non-governmental organizations were also essential to the success of the undertaking.

32. The reform of the Secretariat had coincided with the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The members of the European Community welcomed the spirit of compromise which had prevailed during the negotiations on the Commission's establishment and were ready to make every effort to prevent it from lapsing into ritual and routine. They were eager that it should accomplish substantive work in a spirit of consensus, even in the consideration of difficult topics. The results of the high-level segment of the Commission's first session were encouraging. Although the formula still needed improvement it clearly offered opportunities for genuine debate. The important thing was that the high-level segment should continue to provide the Commission with political impetus, while reflecting the concerns and priorities of the societies concerned.

33. The more technical work of the Commission, before the high-level segment, had made possible the establishment of the main guidelines for national reporting and for coordination throughout the United Nations system in the UNCED follow-up. At the same time, the questions of technology transfer and financial flows had been approached in a realistic and balanced manner, which also gave grounds for satisfaction. In sum, the work of the first session had been successful, given the short time that had elapsed since Rio, the complexity of the Commission's mandate and the innovative character of the debate. The Council should endorse all the Commission's decisions.

34. The members of the European Community had noted the establishment of an Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development within ACC. They welcomed the initiative and hoped to be kept regularly informed of the Committee's activities. As far as the follow-up to the first session of the Commission was concerned, they would be in favour of a flexible procedure enabling the Commission's future work, including the thematic programme, to be prepared as effectively and coherently as possible.

35. The Commission was now one of the important organs of the United Nations. The level of the delegations which had attended the first substantive meeting bore witness to the political importance attached to it by the European Community and its member States. They hoped to maintain that level of attendance. The enthusiastic response of the non-governmental organizations was another important factor. In regard to the functioning of the Commission, he recalled that the General Assembly had recognized that the European Community should participate fully, though without the right to vote, in the Commission's work. Consultations were taking place in that connection and there was every hope that a compromise formula would shortly be arrived at. The Community and its member States had also argued in favour of the Commission's sessions being held alternately in Geneva and New York. They would participate actively in the consultations on that matter.

36. One of the other most important mechanisms which were part of the follow-up to UNCED was the Global Environmental Facility. The negotiations on its definitive structure had been based on guidelines agreed at Rio. In regard to the replenishment of the Facility, the results of the first official donors' meeting in Beijing in May had been encouraging. The timetable for the transition to the definitive phase by the end of the year had been worked out. A consensus was also developing on the order of magnitude of the Facility. It should be borne in mind, however, that the exercise must be considered as a whole. The level of refinancing was linked to the decision-making machinery, just as the timetable for the implementation of the final phase depended on programmatic questions. The two-stage approach identified in the Chairman's conclusions after the Beijing meeting seemed preferable in that regard. The European Community was continuing to follow those discussions with special attention—first, because of the importance of the matter, but also because the innovative arrangements for financing and managing the Facility should be such as to encourage the responsible utilization of multilateral contributions. In addition, the Facility was the best current example of cooperation between the United Nations and the World Bank.

37. The UNEP Governing Council had taken several important decisions concerning the follow-up to UNCED. UNEP obviously had an important part to play in implementing Agenda 21 but there should be an appropriate division of labour between it and the other bodies concerned. UNEP should give priority to the development of environmental law and institutional frameworks for the protection of the environment and to the dissemination of information on the state of the environment in general. The European Community welcomed the fact that UNEP had recognized the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development. The Community would continue to follow the work of UNEP with the attention it deserved. It also attached great importance to the follow-up in regard to climatic change and biological diversity. Its member States reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and were in favour of measures to bring it into force at an early date. He recalled that Germany had offered to act as host for the first meeting of States parties to the Convention.

38. The Convention on Biological Diversity was also a very important instrument which the Community hoped would receive the largest possible number of ratifications before the end of the year. The Community and its member States were actively engaged in elaborating the necessary legislation to bring the Convention into effect. They would take up the other follow-up mechanisms, in regard to desertification, migratory fish stocks and the sustainable development of small island countries, in due

course. It was important for the Council to continue to be able to form an overall idea of the progress achieved, given its important role of coordination. On the follow-up in regard to forests, the Community and its member States were in favour of the gradual elaboration of the principles agreed to in Rio. Any new international instrument in that connection should take into account the ecological, political and commercial complexities of the question.

39. As far as the operational sector of the United Nations system was concerned, the Community and its member States believed that the concept of sustainable development should be integrated into programmes rather than considered a new subject. Many programmes included an environmental component or had environmental consequences which were not well understood. The interest shown by the Governing Council in the UNDP strategy in support of sustainable development was welcome. The Council had rightly emphasized the partnership between UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP in the framework of the follow-up to UNCED. The Governing Council had also supported the launching of Capacity 21. The donor countries had insisted on specific criteria for the utilization of its resources, including their catalytic and complementary character. They intended to look closely at the implementation of those criteria, including the particular attention to be paid to the least developed countries. That specific mandate was only a partial response to their questions. In managing multilateral aid, the members of the European Community would seek to pursue, together with all interested countries, the gradual reorientation of programmes with a view to the integration of an environmental dimension.

40. In conclusion, he stressed that the terms "development" and "sustainable" were now inseparable. The new structures of the secretariat already reflected that fact. The Community and its member States believed that intergovernmental structures should do the same. They intended to see that the link was maintained in their bilateral assistance programmes, and would continue to attach importance to it in the Commission and in the Council.

41. Mr. HUSLID (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the promotion of sustainable development was one of the most central challenges of the age. In recent years, important progress had been made through UNCED, the successful negotiation of conventions on climate change and biological diversity, the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the creation of the Global Environmental Facility. The task of ensuring that action followed the UNCED declarations rested with Governments and with the multilateral system, including the Commission on Sustainable Development.

42. The current situation gave no grounds for complacency. It was unacceptable that large parts of the world's population should be excluded from economic and social development and suffer poverty, social alienation and environmental degradation. The results of UNCED, and the institutional follow-up, had provided a framework for putting the world on a more sustainable footing, but the work itself remained to be done. To fulfil the commitments made in Rio it was necessary to take action at the country level. The developed countries especially should reorient themselves towards a more resource-efficient society, marked by recycling, reuse and reduced emissions among other things.

43. The Commission had made a good start. The participation of more than 40 Ministers in the high-level segment and the fruitful and constructive political debate had demonstrated the political will of Member States. At its first substantive session, the Commission had agreed on a programme of work, national reporting and a number of other important issues that would be crucial for the implementation and follow-up of UNCED. Nevertheless, the Commission's priorities still needed to be clarified in several areas, and care must be taken to ensure proper preparations for the major issues that the Commission would deal with in the next four years.

44. In that context, the Nordic countries welcomed the offers of a number of Governments to host meetings to prepare for the Commission's next session. Several Nordic countries had also offered to host seminars and workshops in order to contribute to those preparations. The establishment of the two inter-sessional open-ended working groups, to deal with financial resources and access to, and transfer of, technology, would also contribute to the preparations.

45. A number of issues would be particularly important in making sure that the Commission played its intended central coordinating and guiding role. First, the balance between environmental and developmental issues was crucial to the Commission's work, and that balance could best be maintained by an integrated approach to the individual agenda items. A balanced approach would contribute to the achievement of environmental goals and to a fairer distribution of resources and wealth throughout the world. The proposal that the Commission should initiate a debate on the basic issue of changing production and consumption patterns towards a more sustainable basis should be seen against that background. Changes in behaviour were essential for implementing the goals of Agenda 21 and the Commission should not delay in tackling those issues.

46. Secondly, it was important that continued high-level attendance should be maintained. The agenda for future high-level sessions, therefore, should be well-focused and issue-oriented. Agreement on such an agenda should be reached well ahead of time, to allow for proper preparation of important and emerging issues and to attract high-level attendance. At the Commission's first substantive session, the Nordic countries had proposed that the 1994 high-level segment should be devoted to consideration of the interrelationship between economy and environment. Thirdly, the Commission

should approach its programme of work flexibly, so that emerging issues could be taken up as they arose. Fourthly, the action and the changes necessary to achieve the goals of UNCED would require difficult decisions at the national level and would be far from cost-free.

47. If individual Governments were to make those difficult decisions, they needed to be reassured that their national efforts were part of a genuine global partnership in which burdens were shared between countries according to their responsibilities and abilities. To achieve such an atmosphere of confidence, Member States must be able to demonstrate, through the Commission, that national action to promote environment and development was being taken by all countries. In addition, member States needed to be convinced that the financial resources required were likely to become available. The Nordic countries shared the Commission's concern that the general response to UNCED recommendations regarding funding had fallen significantly short of expectations and requirements. All opportunities to increase financial resources should therefore be explored to ensure that Agenda 21 could be implemented. The elements contained in the proposals of the Nordic countries regarding financial resources were still valid.

48. The Nordic countries were generally satisfied with the results of the first substantive session. The real test would come, however, at the 1994 session, when specific chapters of Agenda 21 would be debated. The Nordic countries were confident that all countries would continue the positive and constructive collaboration demonstrated at the first session. They were also confident that Member States would continue to work for an effective follow-up to the UNCED process throughout the United Nations system.

49. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) congratulated the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, and the Chairman of the Commission on their precise and detailed reports, which signalled the successful launch of a major global project.

50. A properly balanced twofold emphasis on national responsibility and national and international partnership was required to ensure success in carrying out the commitments made at UNCED. Voluntary national descriptions of efforts undertaken and experiences gained in applying Agenda 21 would be the key to fostering the necessary intergovernmental dialogue, which, combined with inter-sessional efforts to address the issues of availability of financial resources, would be essential for the success of the Commission's work. His Government reaffirmed its offer to work with Colombia, currently Chairman of the Group of 77, in helping to prepare for the inter-sessional consideration of technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building. It hoped to be in a position to put forward more specific plans at the forthcoming Assembly session. In considering the inter-sessional agenda for the Commission, it was important to keep in mind the need for cost-effectiveness and efficiency and the need to stay within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 agreed at the Assembly's forty-seventh session. He looked forward to a rapid decision to note and forward the Commission's report to the General Assembly.

51. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said there was a risk that the impact of the Rio Summit would be weakened by the widespread recession, pressure for resumed growth, the priority accorded to the maintenance of peace, including social peace, and the shift to a market economy in some countries.

52. The food and agriculture sectors were ill placed to surmount those crises and pursue the path marked out by UNCED. They were vulnerable to environmental disasters, their production cycles were long and their products perishable. The difficulty of achieving the target of doubling production in under 20 years was compounded by the fall in agricultural prices and the deterioration of the terms of trade between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy over the past 10 years. In the absence of corrective measures, the liberalization of trade would increase the ecological and economic vulnerability of agriculture in many countries. Rural poverty, which made for environmental degradation in the countryside and mounting poverty and social disorder in the towns, would spread if rural populations were not given more favourable conditions for sustainable development. New forms of support would have to be found for agriculture, particularly in the most disadvantaged regions. At its Conference in November 1993, FAO would present a major study of agriculture to the year 2010 and would continue to provide technical support for the GATT negotiations.

53. At its 1991 Conference, FAO had restructured and concentrated its programmes on priority areas subsequently incorporated in Agenda 21. It had not had to make changes to accommodate its programmes to the Rio recommendations.

54. Unfortunately the financial resources mobilized fell short of the desired goal. In the Commission on Sustainable Development, ACC had drawn attention to the shortfall of resources and the Commission had requested the Council to invite all United Nations bodies to inform it of their priorities and financial needs for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other UNCED recommendations. It would not be easy for the United Nations system to discharge its additional responsibilities in a situation of zero growth in budgets and shrinking extra-budgetary resources. FAO would like to see closer cooperation between the specialized agencies and UNEP with its Fund for the Environment, the Global Environmental Facility and the new Capacity 21 programme of UNDP. Joint action would make it possible to take advantage of specialized agency experience and ensure effective integration in the field of United Nations activities for development and the protection of the

environment. There was a clear need for better coordination of multisectoral and sectoral planning across the wide range of activities involved.

55. While there had been little argument at UNCED about the crucial questions of agriculture and food security, forests, particularly tropical forests, had been the subject of long and difficult debate. There was, he thought, a tendency to look at effects rather than causes. The main cause of deforestation was the search for arable land to cultivate. The most effective way of curtailing it was to enable farmers to achieve sustainable increased production from land already under cultivation, and the countries concerned to earn enough from agricultural exports.

56. Within the limits of available resources, FAO had prepared itself to play an important role in the follow-up to UNCED. It gave its full backing to the Inter-Agency Committee for Sustainable Development and would cooperate closely with the United Nations and other members of the system to ensure a successful follow-up to the Rio Summit.

57. Mrs. CHUDA (Observer for Slovakia) said that her country welcomed General Assembly resolution 47/191 establishing the Commission on Sustainable Development. Although not a member of the Commission, her Government strongly supported its activities and was offering Slovak experts to its open-ended working groups. Since the tasks facing the Commission were not only important but arduous, and the implementation of Agenda 21 would require the active cooperation of all countries, including those in transition, she appreciated the Executive Director of UNEP's assurances that the latter countries would not be left out of the process.

58. While her Government was grateful for the assistance it had received, especially in defining problems, it had not been able to make full use of the services of foreign experts, and some had not been of the calibre required. There had been a tendency to provide technologies to the Central European countries that were better than those previously used, but not of the standard required for sustainable development. Accordingly, her delegation strongly supported the proposal to make one of the working groups responsible for the transfer of technologies, and the offer of the services of Slovak experts related to that working group in particular. In accordance with its commitment to the solution of the global problems involved, her Government was in the process of establishing a national committee for sustainable development. She reiterated her Government's proposal at the seventeenth session of the UNEP Governing Council that the UNEP Regional Office should be established in Bratislava.

59. Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) said that his delegation supported the Commission's first report (E/1993/25/Add.1). The decisions made at the first substantive session would give a results-oriented thrust to international sustainable development. Many of them also figured in the results of the high-level meeting of Ministers held at the end of the session, and, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 47/191, it was important that the outcome of such meetings should be regarded as an integral part of the Commission's decision-making procedure. His delegation particularly welcomed the support given by the Ministers for national plans and strategies, for early implementation of the Forest Principles, and for the establishment of inter-sessional working groups on finance and technology.

60. The groups would play a critical role in preparations for the Commission's second substantive session. Canada was pleased that their deliberations were to focus on the major themes of Agenda 21, and believed that all major organizations concerned, including international financial institutions and intergovernmental organizations should be encouraged to participate. His Government believed that funding for the working groups should be kept within available United Nations resources and should not adversely affect other programmes and initiatives. Efforts should be made to reduce costs by such devices as producing brief preparatory reports to shorten meeting times and discussing common areas of action on relevant themes.

61. He hoped the Council would support the Commission in its central role of monitoring, reviewing and facilitating the implementation of UNCED decisions so as to achieve tangible results for the earth, its ecosystems and its inhabitants. His Government was proud to have played an active role at the Commission's first session and looked forward to working with others to ensure that the Commission would live up to the high expectations it had aroused in 1994.

62. Mr. BELTRAME (Italy) said Italy fully subscribed to the representative of Belgium's statement on behalf of the European Community. He had pleasure in informing the Council that, as an earnest of its commitment to sustainable development, and in preparation for the Commission's second session, his Government would hold an inter-sessional seminar in Rome at some time in the first quarter of 1994 on the treatment of urban and hazardous wastes for countries of the Mediterranean region.

63. Mr. KHADER (United Nations Development Programme) said that the Commission's first session had sent a message of high-level political commitment, cooperation and will to action, and had shown a very encouraging focus on sound and practical solutions to the implementation of Agenda 21. It had also clearly signalled the need for closer and more effective collaboration within the United Nations system. UNDP was committed to pursuing that course, strengthening its partnership with UNEP and working closely with the United Nations, in particular with the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in supporting the Commission's work.

64. At the Commission's first session, the Associate Administrator of UNDP had outlined many of the initia-

tives being taken in response to the intention and recommendations of UNCED, including an evaluation of the UNDP contribution, at global and country levels, to the Commission's work. UNDP would continue its dialogue with the developing country Governments and non-governmental organizations to determine specific needs for technical assistance in capacity-building, including ways in which each country could help to strengthen its public sector and civil society to promote and monitor progress towards sustainable development.

65. He reaffirmed the firm commitment of UNDP to implement the mandate, given in Agenda 21 on capacity-building. It would do so through Capacity 21, country programmes and the activities of special funds within the purview of UNDP. UNDP had accepted the responsibility of task managers on capacity-building in the United Nations system, which it would fulfil in close liaison with its agency partners.

66. The Commission on Sustainable Development had made a good start and could be assured of the full support and cooperation of UNDP.

67. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan) said that his delegation endorsed the Commission's report (E/1993/25/Add.1), and welcomed the statements by the Chairman of the Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. In that connection, he noted that the declaration of the recent G-7 summit in Tokyo had reaffirmed that environmental issues remained a high priority on its policy agenda despite difficult economic times. It welcomed the successful first meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the progress made towards implementation and ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity by the end of 1993, and on negotiation of a convention on desertification. The Group renewed its determination to secure environmentally sustainable development through an effective follow-up of the fruits of UNCED, including the commitment to publish national action plans by the end of the year. It would work to ensure that the Global Environmental Facility, with necessary improvements, functioned as the financial mechanism to provide funding for the incremental costs of implementing the global environment conventions signed at Rio de Janeiro. It encouraged the multilateral development banks to focus more intensively on sustainable development, to incorporate environmental appraisals into project preparation and to make them publicly available. It looked forward to a successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. It would continue to seek appropriate internationally agreed arrangements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. It welcomed the analysis being done by OECD on the contribution of environment and energy technologies in meeting global environmental concerns.

68. The statement testified to the importance Japan and the other countries of the Group attached to implementation of the UNCED decisions and recommendations. His Government was determined to go on contributing positively to the work of the Commission, and his delegation would work with the Commission's Bureau, and with the secretariat and other delegations, to ensure progress in the inter-sessional tasks.

69. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that the Council must recognize the urgency of taking action on questions of environment and development, in order to promote sustainable, ecologically rational development. In that regard, his delegation supported the idea of making the Commission a political forum responsible for defining specific action to be taken by Governments and the international community as a whole as well as an agency for implementing decisions. He supported the view that measures to give effect to Agenda 21 should benefit from an international climate conducive to cooperation and partnership and thus to an integrated approach to the world's major economic and social problems. He wished to share with the Council a number of thoughts about the Commission's first two sessions. First, with regard to institutional arrangements, his delegation supported the measures taken or envisaged by bodies of the United Nations system and international organizations, including the financial institutions, to strengthen international cooperation and embody the recommendations stemming from UNCED in their programme of work. The institutions were invited to go on submitting periodic reports on their follow-up activities in conformity with the modules of the multi-year thematic programme of work drawn up by the Commission. Secondly, in order to achieve sustainable development it was essential to ensure, on the one hand, a transfer of ecologically rational technology, cooperation and the development of endogenous capacity and, on the other, the attainment of the objectives set forth by UNCED to that end. The Commission must focus on measures to encourage a wide distribution of information and to promote and, if necessary, finance access to eco-technology on concessional terms.

70. Thirdly, his delegation attached particular importance to the Commission's decisions on the setting up of national machinery for coordination and exchange of information on the implementation of Agenda 21, with a view to constant monitoring and speedy attention to problems of financing and other difficulties encountered by countries. It was essential to evaluate national capacities and assistance requirements, as well as the capacities of the United Nations system, the multilateral financial institutions and other means of financing, for that purpose.

71. With regard to the crucial issue of financing activities for sustainable development, his delegation regretted the hesitant approach of bilateral and multilateral donors in allocating further resources for the various funds and programmes, and wholeheartedly endorsed the comments and recommendations contained in the Commis-

sion's report (E/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, sect. F). It also stressed the importance of establishing machinery to monitor financial flows and the deliberations of decision-taking bodies with regard to the use of available resources. The Commission must give precise directives, in that regard, to all the financial institutions. His delegation welcomed the Commission's decision, mentioned in paragraph 61 of its report, to establish an inter-sessional ad hoc, open-ended working group, composed of national experts, to assist the Commission in those tasks (ibid., para. 61). It hoped that the working group would carefully study the question of the organic links between the Commission and the financing institutions. It also looked forward to a speedy conclusion of negotiations on the reform and restructuring of the Global Environmental Facility.

72. He reiterated his country's commitment to working towards sustainable development. His Government saw as its first task the raising of people's awareness about the extent of the challenge raised in adopting the Earth Charter and had recently established an Office of Commissioner for the Environment. Madagascar would follow with great interest international action in the field of environment and development, and would strive to give effect to the Commission's recommendations, with particular regard to the information required for the purpose of achieving sustainable development. It looked forward to further assistance from its bilateral and multilateral partners.

73. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) thanked the Chairman of the Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for their statements.

74. The high-level meetings of the Commission should strive to ensure a more fruitful dialogue. Unfortunately, at the Commission's first session the meetings had been largely taken up by lengthy statements. His delegation hoped for a more constructive approach at the next session. On the subject of a multi-year thematic programme of work, his delegation welcomed the decision to have an annual consideration of various cross-sectoral issues, such as the transfer of resources. It also welcomed the decision to begin consideration, at the Commission's second session, of such vital topics as water resources—a crucial issue for a number of countries, including Morocco, which proposed to host a high-level meeting, with the participation of countries from North and South, on that issue, with particular reference to problems in Africa. Morocco hoped that it could count on the assistance of the Under-Secretary-General and of the Commission's Bureau in that regard.

75. With regard to the organizing of information provided by Governments on the implementation of Agenda 21, clear guidelines were essential. The voluntary nature of government contributions had rightly been stressed; nevertheless, the establishment of a systematic provision of information, possibly by means of a questionnaire, would be desirable. The implementation of Agenda 21 would begin at the national level; there must be some means, therefore, for international monitoring of countries' commitments on matters such as financing and technology transfer, and detailed reports should be expected, in particular, from the developed countries, whose impact would be greater. In that regard, his delegation regretted that follow-up action to the outcome of UNCED had not been commensurate with requirements, and that there had even been a falling off in terms of ODA.

76. The international trade situation remained a cause for concern. It was heartening that the G-7 would try to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations successfully by the end of the year. His delegation also hoped to see extra effort for the purpose of debt conversion to environmental projects. It was disappointed that the G-7's recent statement made no specific reference in that regard but had been confined to a statement of general principles.

77. With regard to the Global Environmental Facility, the planned reorganization must not neglect the aims of Agenda 21, a matter of crucial concern for countries such as Morocco. As for the establishment of a working group on transfer of technology, his delegation reiterated its support for the view that provision should be made to meet the travel expenses of the developing-country participants.

78. His delegation agreed with the Chairman of the Commission that its high-level meetings should seek to focus the Commission's work, and should therefore be convened at the end of each session. It also agreed that, at the Commission's next session, the high-level meeting should have as a topic for consideration the issue of sustainable consumption and production patterns and lifestyles in countries in general and in a developed country in particular, since such an important matter would not be deliberated elsewhere. Lastly, his delegation supported the request that the Council should endorse, without amendment, the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council might perhaps look at the matter in greater detail during its resumed session.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

37th meeting

Tuesday, 20 July 1993, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.37

AGENDA ITEM 9

Sustainable development (*continued*)

1. Mr. GORELIK (Russian Federation) welcomed the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session (E/1993/25/Add.1), since the decisions of the major body coordinating the work to be done on the subject reinforced the conclusions of principle adopted by UNCED.

2. The Commission particularly stressed its coordinating role, since the execution of the Agenda 21 programme would be heavily dependent on the cross-sectoral approach which must be adopted at the international and national levels. The activities of the various bodies in the United Nations system must accordingly be coordinated, especially since, as certain speakers had observed, certain priorities remained to be better defined: the division of labour between the Commission, UNDP and UNEP, for example, must be spelt out in greater detail, since the two latter organizations were by definition the Commission's natural partners. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Commission was considering collaboration with non-governmental organizations and that it would report regularly on work at the national level. That might, however, give rise to a proliferation of annual reports.

3. His delegation endorsed the Commission's decisions and recommendations concerning the proposed financing mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 21. It welcomed the fact that the participants in the Global Environmental Facility had decided to complete their negotiations on the replenishment and reorganization of the Facility by the end of 1993 as there was no doubt that the existing sources of financing needed to be supplemented. It also endorsed the Commission's recommendations for the establishment of two inter-sessional working groups, one of which would study possibilities of securing new financial resources. Efforts should, however, be made to ensure that the expenditure of the two groups could be absorbed by the Commission's current budget. In order to limit the Commission's expenditure, further consideration should perhaps be given to the suggestions made by the representative of Canada at the previous meeting.

4. Environmental protection activities should be reassessed since an integrated development strategy was now essential, that being the key to stability. It was right and proper that the United Nations should act as leader in that area, provided that it cooperated closely with non-governmental organizations and companies.

5. Mr. HAMAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that since the adoption of Agenda 21 in Rio in 1992, UNESCO, under the guidance of its Executive Board and with the active support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme and the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, had been reviewing its educational and scientific programmes specifically relating to the environment and development. In addition, the Director-General had established within the organization a committee of five outside experts for UNCED follow-up and to assist in the launching of four interdisciplinary initiatives on sustainable development, biological diversity, capacity-building, and information on the environment and development.

6. The UNESCO draft programme and budget for 1994-1995 were also designed to provide follow-up action on the UNCED recommendations, notably in three priority areas: (*a*) promoting education for sustainable development, in particular through the joint UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Programme, in close conjunction with the joint UNESCO/UNFPA endeavours on population education; (*b*) the international scientific programmes relating to oceans, fresh-water resources, land management—including combating desertification, and biological diversity; special attention would be paid to strengthening the international network of biosphere reserves; and (*c*) support for training and national capacity-building in developing countries with the aim of promoting education and science for sustainable development, including increased efforts in general science education and in the training of environmentally conscious engineers. In those sectors, UNESCO would work in cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP. Moreover, the Education for All programme carried out in association with the World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF remained another area of highest priority for UNESCO in

its endeavours to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21.

7. The Commission on Sustainable Development had noted that the budgetary resources of the agencies in the system, including UNESCO, still fell far short of their ambitious plans to contribute substantively to the implementation of the decisions of UNCED. Pooling the system's resources and continuously improving its coordination and cooperation procedures were therefore imperative. UNESCO for its part endorsed the arrangements for sharing responsibilities within the United Nations system in implementing Agenda 21. Its secretariat would further strengthen existing partnerships such as those with UNEP, WHO and FAO, and forge new partnerships, in particular with non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

8. Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile) noted that the Commission on Sustainable Development was confronted with two major problems which had not been really resolved by UNCED: the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the financing of activities under Agenda 21. One had only to read the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Commission on those two points to see that it had made scant progress.

9. The problem of financing, which was one of the most disturbing, prompted him to draw attention to the close link between sustainable development and the liberalization of international trade. Without further additional external resources, the developing countries could only ensure that their development was accompanied by the necessary ecological, economic and social sustainability by using their trade surpluses for that purpose. The industrial countries must accordingly end their protectionism and open their markets to products from the developing countries. In a note dating back to April 1993, GATT had pointed out that the multilateral trading system could strongly promote economic growth and sustainable development and that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round remained the key to the liberalization of trade and the maintenance of an open and non-discriminatory multilateral system. But until that was achieved it was essential to give effect to the financial commitments undertaken within UNCED, and essential that the developing countries should formulate and present assistance projects with precise objectives. That might encourage donors to finance those projects directly or to make contributions to the various United Nations funds, the regional banks and the international financial institutions.

10. His delegation wished to highlight the social dimension of sustainable development. In that respect, the United Nations system could play an essential role as it had the capacity to train human resources and put them to use, in the areas of nutrition and the education of mothers, for example. Obviously, in order to give development its social sustainability, poverty must above all be eliminated. There could be no sustainable development as long as environmental degradation and malnutrition, hunger, ignorance and disease made man the main obstacle to development when in fact he should be its chief protagonist. Nor should one forget the manifold moral issues raised by action to combat poverty, apart from the economic factors.

11. Given the Council's allotted role of coordination in the area of sustainable development, it had a responsibility to study the annual reports of the specialized agencies and organizations in the United Nations system: that would ensure that duplication was averted and that development progressed along the path of sustainability.

12. Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) said that the results of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1993/25/Add.1) were satisfactory: in particular, the exchange of views during the high-level segment had given fresh political impetus to the implementation of UNCED decisions.

13. Only when guided by the principles on international cooperation in the field of environment established at UNCED could the Commission fulfil its mandate in a smooth manner. It must never forget that environment and development were now necessarily integrated and closely interrelated. The implementation of Agenda 21 would depend on substantial progress on major cross-sectoral questions, especially the improvement of the unfavourable international economic environment, provision of adequate new and additional financial resources, and concessional or non-commercial transfer of technology to the developing countries by the developed countries. His delegation supported the Commission's decision to set up two inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working groups to assist the Commission in its consideration of those issues of financial resources and the transfer of technology.

14. For its part, the Council, as a coordinating body, must play its expected role. In that connection, it was essential to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations agencies to implement Agenda 21 and, to that end, increase their financial resources. The Council should also strengthen coordination among those agencies, including coordination at the national level. The various agencies had their own comparative advantages in their respective fields and could usefully complement one another.

15. Mrs. DOWSETT (Observer for New Zealand) particularly welcomed the establishment of the two inter-sessional open-ended working groups on the transfer of technology and on the financing of the implementation of Agenda 21. The two groups would be particularly useful in facilitating preparations for the Commission's second session since they would address practical problems. Her delegation looked forward with interest to participating in their work, for whose financing the Canadian delegation had made useful proposals at the previous meeting. The problem of the duration and timing of meetings would nevertheless have to be resolved. New Zealand, being far from the major conference cen-

tres, hoped that efforts would be made to facilitate the participation of countries in the same situation, for example through scheduling back-to-back sessions and limiting their duration.

16. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that the main challenge for mankind was how to improve the quality of life without endangering the environment; consequently, given the state of the world economy, the international community was compelled to rethink social development and economic progress and recast the relevant institutions accordingly. The spirit of Rio must be kept alive, with a consequent sense of urgency and global commitment to the promotion of sustainable development.

17. It must nevertheless be acknowledged that one year after UNCED progress remained limited. The solution to urgent international problems was unequivocally related to certain critical elements of sustainability: the quality of the economic environment, combating poverty, certain consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, and limiting population pressure. It was from that standpoint that his delegation would assess progress on Agenda 21 and the other decisions of the Conference.

18. First, the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission, in a flexible way, met the need to ensure linkages between the sectoral and cross-sectoral components of the various provisions of Agenda 21. It would also provide an accurate picture of progress in various areas. At the same time, it was the Commission's task to assimilate the results of major international events in order to give full relevance to the integrated approach to environment and development.

19. Secondly, with regard to action at the national level, his delegation appreciated the guidelines regarding the dissemination and use of information made available by Governments. The analysis of such information and the reports of the Secretary-General, to be undertaken by the Commission, should therefore focus on the national, subregional, regional and international dimensions and on action-oriented recommendations for mobilizing national efforts to implement Agenda 21.

20. Thirdly, and significantly, the Commission had stressed the transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity building for achieving sustainable development. Among the relevant decisions, emphasis should be laid on the establishment of the inter-sessional working groups on technology transfer and financing of the implementation of Agenda 21.

21. Lastly, efforts must be made to incorporate the results of UNCED into programmes and processes within the United Nations system, in particular by strengthening the role of the newly established Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development. In the context of the process of revitalizing and restructuring United Nations activities in the economic, social and related fields, the functioning of intergovernmental machinery in relation to the results of the Conference remained to be reviewed.

22. Mr. BISHARA (Kuwait) welcomed the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development had decided to establish two inter-sessional working groups, whose work would make it easier to attain the objectives of Agenda 21. At the same time he referred to the need to ensure perfect coordination within the United Nations system, for example, between the competent inter-sessional working group and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

23. His country was one of the first in the Gulf region to have legislated, within the context of its development, for the safeguarding of the natural environment. In its view, Agenda 21 established the rights of developing countries by proposing a framework for environmental protection. The development-environment dichotomy constituted a single whole and not a contradiction: all development entailed respect for the environment.

24. His delegation drew particular attention to chapter I, paragraphs 26 (*h*), 56 and 57 of the report under consideration (E/1993/25/Add.1), which highlighted the need to encourage freedom of trade and market access and advocated an open multilateral trading system. However, certain States had adopted financial or other measures instituting a discriminatory regime against trade in crude oil and oil derivatives. Such measures had nothing to do with environmental protection and were based on purely financial considerations; they inevitably had a negative effect on the situation of the developing countries which earned their living from exporting petroleum. Their capacity to invest in the production apparatus would be reduced during the next two years, according to the *World Economic Survey 1993* (E/1993/60) and the report of the Secretary-General on "Energy exploration and development trends in developing countries".[1] For the same reason, those countries would have difficulty in adapting their oil industry to the very costly requirements of the environment.

25. In conclusion, in connection with technology transfer, his delegation emphasized that it was know-how that must be transferred rather than products—on advantageous terms for the developing countries. As the Commission stated, economic growth, social development and the elimination of poverty in the developing countries constituted absolute priorities and were in themselves essential to the attainment of viability objectives. In other words, the developing countries would be able to shoulder their responsibilities in the attainment of the objectives of Agenda 21 only if they were given the means to do so.

26. Mrs. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) welcomed the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development had formulated adequate working methods. As its mandate was so vast and many of the issues it contained were also dealt with by other intergovernmental bodies in the United Nations system, it was very important to provide for a smooth interface between the Commission

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[1] A/47/202-E/1992/51.

and those bodies. Her delegation also welcomed the Commission's recommendations on national reports. It was confident that over time it would be possible to develop habits of information-sharing, from which all countries would benefit. Noting, however, that not enough progress had so far been made, her delegation wondered whether the establishment of a new institutional structure would make it easier to solve problems, given the scarcity of resources. Despite those doubts, it had joined the consensus within the Commission.

27. Austria had been represented by its Minister for the Environment at the high-level meeting of the Commission since it considered that sustainable development issues must be at the forefront of Governments' objectives and that their solution required strong political commitment at the national level. It was to be hoped that over time more ministers with portfolios other than the environment would participate in that work. Various Governments had offered to host the Commission's deliberations on particular issues. Austria was considering helping with the preparations for the examination in 1994 of cluster D (Decision-making structures), with particular reference to chapter 39 of Agenda 21.

28. Mr. MANGACHI (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation fully supported the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development to place high on its agenda the issues of financial resources and transfer of technology. One year after the Rio Summit, it was clear that inadequacy of financial resources was a major constraint on the implementation of Agenda 21, and that environmentally-sound technologies had not yet been made available to the developing countries to enable them to build stronger and more diversified economies.

29. Chapter 33 of Agenda 21 stressed that economic growth, social development and poverty eradication were crucial to sustainability objectives. Consequently, as had been stated in the Chairman's summary of the high-level meeting of the Commission (17th meeting), all Governments, international organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, and all other parties should be involved in creating a supportive international economic environment for sustainable development. That would entail the following measures: improved market access for the developing countries' exports; increasing financial flows to the developing countries (ODA remained at only 0.33 per cent of donor countries' GDP, whereas the General Assembly had set the contribution level at 0.7 per cent, and most direct foreign investment was flowing to the better-off countries); action to solve the debt issue, through outright cancellation in some cases; greater financial and technical assistance.

30. With regard to financing modalities, his delegation was very interested in the Commission's deliberations on the transparency of the Global Environmental Facility and the democratization of its decision-making processes, access to its funds without introducing new forms of conditionality, and mobilization of resources needed for the implementation of Agenda 21 activities. Concerning the transfer of technology, the developed countries were expected to increase funding of the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, promote developing-country access by encouraging the private sector to transfer those technologies on concessional terms, and circumvent the problem of intellectual property rights.

31. His delegation supported the Commission's other recommendations, notably on the establishment of institutions to assess the environmental impact of technology. As to country reporting, it was expected that the Commission would find ways of assisting the developing countries, and particularly the least developed countries, to prepare their national reports and remove the constraints on the execution of Agenda 21.

32. Mr. ELYSSEEV (Ukraine) said that his country, which had participated as an observer in the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, welcomed the fact that the decisions taken at the Rio Summit were beginning to be put into effect. It was quite clear that in the area of worldwide environmental protection, progress would depend to a large extent on the measures taken by countries. The establishment of mechanisms for coordination and the exchange of information on the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level was of great importance in that respect.

33. The success of the environment policy which Ukraine intended to pursue would, as with all the other countries in transition, be dependent on genuine economic recovery. It was therefore essential that there should be a favourable economic environment at the global level, based on an open and non-discriminatory system of trade, which facilitated those countries' change-over to a market economy. Seen in that light, external assistance to promote their sustainable development and growth could but contribute to environmental protection at the global level.

34. A particularly interesting measure was the establishment by the Commission of an inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working group on means of mobilizing the financial resources needed for the attainment of all the objectives set in Agenda 21. His delegation supported the idea of using non-traditional financing sources such as the conversion, with the agreement of creditor States, of part of countries' external debt to finance environmental protection measures and the establishment of environmentally friendlier methods of production. The redeployment to the civilian sector of resources formerly devoted to the military sector—in other words, the principle of disarmament for development—would also provide the countries in transition with a good proportion of the financial resources they needed in order to achieve improved environmental "well-being".

35. Access to environmental technologies and the exchange of information on the relevant know-how were vitally important for those countries. Ukraine therefore

supported the establishment, within the United Nations system, of research centres and data banks on clean technologies, which would be integrated within regional and global networks. His delegation proposed that the ad hoc working group which had been provisionally established for a period of one year to recommend measures to facilitate the transfer of technology, should be given a permanent mandate if, at the end of that period, its performance was deemed satisfactory. Lastly, it stressed that the concept of sustainable development must be integrated in all programmes and activities carried out under the aegis of the United Nations.

36. Mr. VENERA (Observer for the Czech Republic) said that sustainable development represented a crucial issue for his country, where the problems of environmental recovery were additional to those of economic recovery. Already, in 1991 Czechoslovakia had hosted the first Conference of European Ministers for the Environment. Aware that ecological problems transcended national and even European borders, his delegation supported truly international cooperation on that question and intended, within the limits of its resources, to take part in the global processes to be set up, notably technology transfer, in order to assist the developing countries in combating environmental deterioration and achieving sustainable development.

37. Such a commitment would inevitably have beneficial effects at the national level for the countries in transition, provided they adopted appropriate legislation on environmental protection, containing specific practical measures.

38. His country was prepared to assist the Commission in fulfilling its long-term programme of work, in particular with regard to the question of the formulation of sustainability indicators. More generally, it considered that the United Nations system provided a natural framework for truly effective international cooperation aimed at global sustainable development.

39. Mr. DOSS (Observer for Egypt) stressed that global sustainable development presupposed genuine international cooperation— a "new global partnership". In that perspective, the North's pre-emption of the global environmental space could not be at the expense of the development of the South.

40. The environmentally-sound management of natural resources was in the interest of the developing countries, but they did not have the necessary financial means to put it into effect. The assistance of the international community was essential if those countries were to be able to meet the needs of their populations and at the same time adopt environment-friendly methods of production. At its first session, the Commission on Sustainable Development had noted that the objectives set in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, namely, providing the developing countries with adequate and predictable additional resources, had not been achieved. Apart from the establishment of mechanisms such as the Global Environmental Facility to finance specific programmes, the countries of the South must be given the means for their growth through a whole range of measures, including reduction of the debt burden, a substantial increase in ODA and greater financial flows to those countries.

41. In many ecologically degraded areas, experience had shown that environmental regeneration programmes, such as action to combat desertification or soil erosion, which were highly-labour intensive, constituted means of combating poverty by providing work and a source of income to local populations and remedying the degradation caused by intensive exploitation of natural resources. The development of such large-scale programmes should therefore be encouraged, provided of course that they were given sufficient resources.

42. Because of the relationship between economic growth and environmental protection, international cooperation in the area of trade was also essential. As emphasized in Agenda 21, trade and environment policies must be mutually supportive in order to promote sustainable development. Unilateral trade measures taken for environmental reasons and having negative effects on the development prospects of the developing countries were to be avoided, as were extraterritorial measures imposing ecological preferences inconsistent with the social system or development priorities of other countries. States must endeavour to solve trans-border environmental problems through cooperation, ensuring that environmental protection did not become an instrument of protectionism. Necessary trade measures should be the least restrictive possible.

43. As to the exchange of information on the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level, his delegation noted with satisfaction that, according to the Commission's report (E/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, para. 22), it was for Governments themselves to decide whether or not they would provide such information, and on its degree of detail and periodicity. The Commission had thus wanted to make sure that environmental obligations would not be used as additional conditionality for developing countries, for example by making the granting of assistance conditional upon the submission of environmental information.

44. Mr. HAMDAN (Observer for Palestine) said that there could be no sustainable development without environmentally-sound management of natural resources, in a society which ensured decent living conditions for all its members and enabled them to exercise their right to self-determination. The case of the occupied Palestinian Territory illustrated the link between environment and development, or rather lack of development.

45. The practices of the Israeli occupation forces were having catastrophic consequences in environmental and human terms: the expropriation and confiscation of land, the uprooting of thousands of trees, and the large-scale use of highly toxic herbicides and pesticides had led to

the destruction of crops, soil erosion and desertification, phenomena that were further aggravated by the depletion of water resources. In addition, polluting industries that were forbidden in Israel were transferred to occupied Palestine, where they constituted an additional threat to agriculture and the health of the Palestinian population. There was also concern about where Israel buried its dangerous wastes.

46. It was therefore clear that the continued Israeli occupation could only result in a deterioration of the economic and environmental situation in the Palestinian Territory. Only control over their own resources would enable the Palestinian population to achieve sustainable development, but it was also incumbent on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities by ensuring protection of an environment which was now being subjected to unprecedented damage in the occupied Territory.

47. Mr. DEMIN (Belarus) said that the Commission on Sustainable Development had already done impressive work, as was apparent from the decisions and recommendations adopted at the end of its first session. His country, which was a member of the Commission, considered that further progress in that direction must be made by determining the specific urgent measures to be taken at the national level and within the international community in order to ensure sustainable and reliable development. The Commission should also give priority to interaction at all levels in order to fulfil its coordinating function more effectively.

48. However, one must not lose sight of what remained to be done, particularly in order to mitigate the lack of resources. How long would mankind prefer to waste its resources on self-destruction rather than ensuring its future? Now that the cold war was over, the material and human resources swallowed up by the arms race should be reallocated to Agenda 21. The Commission on Sustainable Development had an obvious role to play in that respect, alongside other United Nations bodies, notably the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. With regard to the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, a number of positive initiatives had already been taken, but there again further progress could be made. It was therefore the responsibility of the Commission, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to strengthen information activities and to improve the coordination of appropriate mechanisms, by taking account of all the human and economic factors involved. The inter-sessional working group to which the Commission had decided to entrust that question should provide means of making further progress.

49. His delegation supported the multi-year thematic programme of work in which the chapters of Agenda 21 were arranged in clusters, and the decision concerning the Commission's future activities which had been brought to the attention of the Council.

50. With regard to the other measures to be taken in order to implement Agenda 21, his delegation considered that it would be advisable to set up mechanisms for the assessment of technologies and disseminating information on environmentally-damaging accidents, and to establish an early-warning system. In fact, no effort should be spared to avert another Chernobyl. At the intergovernmental level, effective arrangements should be made to promote the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, in the context of the global restructuring of the United Nations system. The Commission had also done well to emphasize that it was essential to establish its activities on solid foundations, in particular by promoting freedom of trade and market access.

51. Mr. DORJI (Bhutan) said that at the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development the support for the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 had been readily apparent. For its part, his country fully endorsed the Commission's conclusions. It noted that the concept of sustainable development introduced during the past decade had aroused interest and hope. Many developing or developed countries had begun to adjust their policies accordingly and to make the sometimes fundamental modifications which that entailed.

52. The programme of work proposed in the Commission's report (E/1993/25/Add.1) was acceptable, provided that immediate priority was given to action to combat poverty, the problem of financial resources, capacity-building and technology. The questions of financial resources and technology for development should be given particular attention. The Commission should therefore redirect the approach of the international and multilateral development agencies and improve their coordination in order to implement Agenda 21, in the interest of both donor countries and beneficiary countries. Unless the principle of sustainable development led to increased financial flows and the alleviation of poverty, it would simply become superfluous and a source of disappointment.

53. The Commission had three major challenges before it: to maintain the high level of political commitment to, and dialogue on, the concept of sustainable development; to ensure that technical and expert meetings led to practical means for implementing programmes agreed at a high level; and to provide the necessary means for alleviating poverty and ensuring economic development at the national level in an expeditious manner. Only then would international development be sustainable.

54. Mr. KHIARI (Observer for Tunisia) said that the consensus on the indissoluble links between environmental protection and development—which had been spectacularly highlighted by UNCED—had not ended the wastage of non-renewable resources or the development pattern which gave priority to growth at all costs. Nevertheless, the momentum generated in Rio had been given practical form with the establishment of the Com-

mission on Sustainable Development, which supplemented the work done by UNEP and reinvigorated the environmental approach, particularly with regard to the other organizations in the United Nations system. Although it was still too early to assess the Commission's activity, the success of the work of its first session was satisfying. The interest taken in the Commission's work, which had been particularly apparent at its high-level meeting, should act as a spur to the refinement of its approach.

55. With regard to the Commission's structures, his delegation welcomed the establishment of inter-sessional open-ended working groups, which would certainly be able to facilitate the implementation of strategies for sustainable development and enlighten the Commission in its analytical and follow-up work. But in trying to attain its objectives the Commission was encountering difficulties, in particular inadequacy of financial resources, which was impeding the effective implementation of Agenda 21. Support for the developing countries' efforts through additional financial contributions would, however, appear to be of the highest priority. The replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility would unfortunately remain insufficient if the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies to the countries lacking them was neglected.

56. In keeping with its concern for the environment and desire for sustainable development, Tunisia intended to make a full contribution to the work of the Commission. Accordingly, like the member countries of the European Community, it supported the principle of alternating sessions in New York and at Geneva.

57. Mr. LEE Suk Jo (Republic of Korea) said that although the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including the high-level meeting in New York, had provided a useful framework and concrete guidelines for the follow-up of the Rio Summit, much remained to be done in order to translate the Rio commitments into global action. It was, therefore, commendable that the Commission had established two inter-sessional working groups on the issues of financial resources and technology transfer. His delegation would participate actively in the work of the latter group, whose establishment it had supported. It also supported the multi-year thematic programme of work for the period 1994-1996, but was of the view that questions not covered in the annual report should also be considered.

58. For the purposes of the exchange of information concerning the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level, it would be advisable to replace the national reports by a simplified system of notification, dealing separately with the problems encountered. The possibility of using compulsory licensing procedures for environmental technology that was being withheld should also be considered. At the international level it would be desirable to strengthen coordination among the international organizations in the implementation of Agenda 21, with the assistance of ACC and the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

59. The transfer of technology and capacity-building were vital for the implementation of Agenda 21. Technology transfer mechanisms should therefore be set up in the public domain, as provided for in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, and access to such technology should be facilitated, possibly through the World Intellectual Property Organization or developed countries. With regard to finance, the contribution of additional resources to the International Development Association and the Global Environmental Facility was encouraging, but there had been almost no increase in ODA. At the same time, no effort should be spared to establish a non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. His delegation therefore hoped that the GATT Uruguay Round would soon be successfully concluded.

60. In order to implement Agenda 21, his country had established, under the direction of the Prime Minister, a committee responsible for coordinating sustainable development policies. It was at the same time endeavouring to enhance its environmental standards and to restructure its industries in order to improve environmental protection. While it still needed technical assistance from developed countries for that purpose, it was helping other developing countries in the area of the environment, in particular through its contributions to IDA. In addition, his country's contribution to the Asian Development Bank and its official development assistance were also increasing steadily.

61. In order to promote regional environmental cooperation, his country had for the first time hosted an intergovernmental conference on environmental cooperation in north-east Asia. It hoped that its efforts would be assisted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and by UNEP.

62. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the success of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was partly attributable to the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Chairman of the Commission. That session had enabled all countries to identify common concerns and viable solutions in order to give effect to the Rio agreements, with a sense of political responsibility and pragmatism which had ensured the necessary balance. Multilateralism was, in fact, the only effective approach in dealing with global problems.

63. At the practical level, the prior consultations among delegations, the Bureau and the secretariat had facilitated the work of the session. All groups of countries, including the Group of 77 and China, had made considerable efforts to harmonize their views and identify possible sources of dispute. In the two critical areas of financial resources and science and technology, the Commission had rightly, in order to facilitate its work in

the future, established inter-sessional open-ended working groups made up of government-appointed experts. The Commission had also been right to emphasize the link which existed between international trade and the environment. Agenda 21 duly stressed that economic growth, social development and poverty eradication were absolute priorities for the developing countries in achieving sustainable development. It was therefore understandable that the Commission should note with concern that the financial commitments to give effect to UNCED decisions fell substantially short of the anticipated level. The donor community should be reminded that lack of action in that respect could prove costly. At the end of the Commission's session, the United States and Colombia had held bilateral consultations with a view to formulating for the Bureau proposals concerning the activities of the working groups. Colombia thus intended to make a positive contribution to the Commission's second session, notably for the purposes of the consideration of the reports of countries and organizations.

64. The Group of 77 supported the proposed multi-year thematic programme of work. The annual consideration of intersectoral clusters and the triennial consideration of sectoral clusters would provide means of considering all aspects of Agenda 21 by the end of 1996 and devoting 1997, as suggested by the Chairman of the Commission, to a general review of the Agenda 21 programme, in preparation for the session which the General Assembly was to devote to that issue.

65. The high-level meeting had demonstrated the political will to promote sustainable development. But as had been emphasized the day before by the representative of Norway speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, the right balance must be struck between environmental problems and development problems. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China reaffirmed their commitment to contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in a spirit of cooperation.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

38th meeting

Wednesday, 21 July 1993, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.38

AGENDA ITEM 6

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance:

(*a*) Special programme of economic assistance

(*b*) Humanitarian assistance

1. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl), reporting on emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/160, said that the escalating violence in Mogadishu South in recent weeks had made many relief workers relocate to Nairobi, thereby disrupting relief and assistance activities in some other areas of the country. It was a matter of concern that such developments might jeopardize the efforts of the Somali people and the international community.

2. Following the adoption of the 100-Day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in October 1992 at the First Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, the international community had responded generously to the tragic situation of the Somali people, stricken by famine. However, the degree of insecurity had become such that relief could not get through to those most in need. The Second Coordination Meeting, on 3 December 1992, had provided an opportunity to examine how the security problems could be surmounted. Participants had also emphasized the need to move gradually from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

3. Nevertheless, in view of the grim situation, the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, had on the same day adopted resolution 794 (1992), authorizing the use of all necessary means to establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia. It had in effect become essential to provide armed protection for

humanitarian personnel and relief convoys. The Somali leaders attending the Second Coordination Meeting had welcomed the adoption of the historic decision to deploy a united task force for humanitarian purposes. The first contingents of UNITAF had landed in Mogadishu on 9 December 1992 and taken control of eight main centres in the centre and south of the countries. Conditions for the delivery of relief supplies had improved as a result. At the same time, the port of Mogadishu had been reopened, communication facilities repaired and mine-clearance operations undertaken, especially on the access routes to Ethiopia and Eritrea. Many new non-governmental organizations had established relief programmes in the most severely affected areas and United Nations bodies had increased their staff and expanded their activities. The very close cooperation between those bodies, ICRC and non-governmental organizations deserved special mention. Major progress had also been made in health and nutrition through the establishment of Humanitarian Operations Centres.

4. Yet in spite of the massive presence of UNITAF, the risk to relief workers had remained high, the resettlement of a million displaced persons and hundreds of thousands of refugees had been impossible and armed bands had begun to create havoc in new areas, including neighbouring countries that had offered hospitality to Somali refugees. To remedy the situation, the Secretary-General had convened the informal Preparatory Meeting for a National Reconciliation Conference in January 1993. On that occasion, he had emphasized that United Nations assistance alone was not enough and that it was up to the Somalis themselves to save their country.

5. The situation had then seemed to improve: the warring factions had negotiated, the focus had shifted from relief to rehabilitation and on all fronts action was being taken to rebuild the nation. That had been the background for the Third Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, held from 11 to 13 March. The 190 Somali participants had been the first to underline the importance of security and peace for rehabilitation programmes. Particularly moving statements had been made by women (the main victims of the war together with children), who would certainly have an important role to play in the national reconciliation process. It had been decided to launch the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, based on national capacity-building, rehabilitation of agriculture and stockbreeding (which had accounted for two thirds of the country's GNP before the civil war) and job creation, especially for the thousands of young people who continued to be marginalized by the armed conflict.

6. The Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia had opened on 15 March 1993. The interface between humanitarian assistance and peace-making had been highlighted and the international community had made it known to the Somali political leaders in no uncertain terms that, unless they took concrete steps towards establishing peace, its willingness to assist might be undermined. The message had not been conveyed in vain, since the Conference had endorsed the conclusions of the Coordination Meeting and condemned attacks on humanitarian personnel and relief supplies.

7. On 26 March 1993, the Security Council had adopted resolution 814 (1993), broadening the UNOSOM mandate. It had requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to Somalia for economic rehabilitation, the repatriation of refugees, the resettlement of displaced persons, the rebuilding of national and regional institutions and the civil administration, the re-establishment of a police force and mine clearance. UNOSOM II was to take over the task of UNITAF in facilitating humanitarian assistance and strengthening security throughout the country. At its closing meeting, the Conference had endorsed the agreements on disarmament and rehabilitation, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the establishment of a transitional national council.

8. Although assistance to Somalia was a high priority, it had unfortunately continued to be difficult to finance, even before the events of June 1993, since only 15 per cent of requirements under the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme ($166 million) had been made available. By way of comparison, roughly $1,500 million would be allocated to military operations over a 12-month period. In other words, the international community was spending ten dollars on military protection for every dollar of voluntary humanitarian assistance in Somalia. Unless sufficient funds were provided for reconstruction, the military operation might well be perceived as an end in itself rather than as a means of ensuring essential security. Clearly, violence could not be allowed to defeat the efforts to achieve peace and reconstruction nor could the attacks on United Nations peacekeepers or Somali civilians be disregarded. There were fears, however, particularly among relief organizations and non-governmental organizations, that continued military operations in Mogadishu would marginalize the humanitarian dimension of United Nations action. Those concerns had been reflected in a recent report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 837 (1993). The humanitarian institutions and programmes hoped that the current security problems in Mogadishu South would not unduly affect operations in the rest of the country, but the lack of protection for convoys was already having a detrimental effect on humanitarian activities in some rural areas.

9. All the evidence pointed to the fact that the United Nations was charting new territory in Somalia: while it was clear that resolute action had to be taken to promote disarmament, it was equally essential to maintain a balance between the political, military and humanitarian dimensions and see to it that the principles of neutrality and impartiality in providing humanitarian assistance were respected by all parties. It was in that spirit and to continue helping Somalis to help themselves that consultations with countries contributing assistance to Somalia had been held on 22 June 1993. The participants had been briefed on the situation by the Special Representa-

tive of the Secretary-General. A further meeting, at which security would be one of the main topics, was scheduled for 27 July. Helping hundreds of thousands of Somalis to return to their homes was a high-priority task demanding major support and sensitive negotiations. Land-mine clearance was also necessary and, even if security improved, emergency relief, particularly food aid, would still be necessary until the end of 1993 and into 1994. Financial and material assistance would also be necessary for the reopening of schools. In resolution 47/160, the General Assembly had decided to establish a programme of scholarships abroad for Somali students. Again, funds were needed to improve the health services and, in the economic sphere, to develop sea and air links and banking and other services. In the administrative field, district councils and a judiciary system had been established with the support of UNOSOM II in accordance with the agreements of 27 March 1993. A number of Governments, the European Community and United Nations bodies were also helping to establish a police force.

10. A great deal had been achieved, therefore, since the devastating famine of 1991-1992. He paid tribute to the dedicated staff of the United Nations bodies, ICRC and the non-governmental organizations who, sometimes at the cost of their lives, were helping the Somalis to rebuild their country. The time had come to move beyond relief to rehabilitation and development, and consultations to that effect had already been initiated by the World Bank.

11. In conclusion, he appealed to the international community to continue to assist Somalia in the task of rehabilitation, a goal that could only be attained when peace finally prevailed.

12. Mr. de SOUZA (Director, Department of Political Affairs), speaking on behalf of Mr. Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, introduced the report on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1992/42. The report on that subject to be presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session would contain detailed information for the period from 1 June 1992 to 31 July 1993.

13. In 1978 the General Assembly had adopted a programme for United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL). In the past two years, far-reaching changes had occurred in Lebanon: in particular, the consolidation of the authority of the State had made it possible to focus on reconstruction and development, make UNARDOL fully operational and develop the activities of the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in resolutions 1992/42 and 47/155 respectively, had called on all United Nations bodies to intensify their assistance to Lebanon and ensure that their offices in Beirut were adequately staffed. The UNARDOL Resident Coordinator was responsible for coordinating the activities of United Nations bodies in Lebanon, particularly in respect of humanitarian assistance, emergency relief, support for capacity-building of institutions, and human resources development. During the past year, several United Nations organizations had opened or reopened offices in Beirut and existing offices had been strengthened. For the first time since the end of the civil war, field operations involving international personnel had been initiated outside the capital following the relaxation of the security measures in force north of the Litani River.

14. Regular meetings of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system were held in Beirut. The activities of each organization would be described in detail in the report submitted to the General Assembly but he wished to make special mention of the World Bank's loan of $175 million to Lebanon, the first loan for more than a decade, and of the activities of the agencies and programmes that were assisting the authorities in drug-abuse control. The 1993-1996 programme for Lebanon approved by the Governing Council of UNDP in February focused on three areas: institutional rehabilitation and development of public administration; social reconstruction; and balanced and equitable development. Coordination at the field level, which he had mentioned earlier, was complemented by coordination at the central level by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Meetings with the representatives of all United Nations programmes and agencies with activities in Lebanon were held in New York and the Office of the Under-Secretary-General remained in very close contact with the UNARDOL Resident Coordinator.

15. In 1992, Lebanon had held its first elections for 20 years. The programme of the new Government was fully in line with the objectives of the Taif Agreement and the Priority Rehabilitation Programme had been launched with a view to bringing about an immediate improvement in the economic situation. Nevertheless, a third of the population were still living in difficult circumstances, and continuing instability along the country's southern border reflected regional tension that could not fail to affect the progress of the reconstruction process.

16. Mr. BLAIN (United Nations Development Programme) introduced the oral progress report requested by the Council on the implementation of resolution 1992/61, concerning assistance to Yemen.

17. Following the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and in order to meet the needs of Yemeni returnees, the World Bank and the Government of Yemen, with the assistance of UNDP and other United Nations organizations, had developed a multisectoral Emergency Recovery Programme totalling $245 million, of which $86 million had so far been mobilized.

18. Giving details of the response of individual agencies of the United Nations system, he said that UNICEF had provided emergency health and drug kits, vaccines

and miscellaneous medical supplies worth a total of $260,000. FAO had redefined its programme objectives in collaboration with the Yemeni Government, focusing on land and water resources conservation and development, watershed management and the establishment of production systems (livestock and crops).

19. UNDP, in conjunction with FAO, had prepared the initial draft of a project to assist in the integration of Yemeni returnees into rural communities: the returnees would be able to use Government-selected agricultural land and would be provided with housing, training in agriculture, animal production and handicrafts for women, and educational, health and veterinary services. Furthermore, in response to the country's needs following unification, UNDP had designated management development as one of the four areas of concentration of the first country programme. UNDP had fielded two missions to locate bottlenecks and develop a comprehensive programme of technical assistance to improve the country's management of its various resources, including human resources. A number of projects would be implemented following the reorganization of the administration in the post-election period. UNDP had also attached considerable importance to vocational training, which should be of benefit to the returnees.

20. WFP had approved two projects for Yemen to assist 31,000 refugees over a period of six months. It was also organizing a field mission to assess a project for assistance to the health and social sectors. Lastly, UNFPA had funded a national workshop to discuss the socio-economic and demographic consequences of the inflow of returnees and to help planners and decision-makers to address the situation. It had also participated in a demographic field survey in the areas of concentration of returnees and had taken due account of the problem of returnees in preparing the country programme. Maternal and child health and family planning had been given high priority in the programme, as had the organization of the national population and housing census scheduled for 1994.

21. Mr. SOKIRI (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) introduced the oral report by the Secretary-General on the situation of African refugees, returnees and displaced persons requested by the General Assembly in resolution 47/107.

22. Since the adoption of resolution 47/107, the African continent had continued to be plagued by emergencies, as a result of which it hosted some 6 million refugees, a third of the world's total refugee population, while an estimated 15 million Africans had become displaced persons. The root causes of those population movements and refugee flows continued to be both natural and man-made disasters, with the impact of political, military, economic, climatic and environmental factors varying from situation to situation. Progress in democratization improved the prospects for durable solutions, especially through voluntary repatriation, but on the whole the United Nations had recently been obliged to focus on emergency response and coordination of assistance in the face of seriously deteriorating security conditions for the populations themselves, United Nations personnel and organizations involved in relief work.

23. In West Africa, there were still a very large number of Liberian refugees in countries bordering on Liberia and of refugees from Sierra Leone in Guinea and Liberia. In January 1993, there had been a massive outflow of refugees from Togo to Benin and Ghana, where UNHCR had begun to implement an emergency relief programme, and in May 1993 had launched an appeal for just under $10 million to finance it. With the intensification of the Liberian conflict in mid-October 1992, the spontaneous repatriation movements had come to a halt and refugees were still pouring into Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy appointed in November 1992 was continuing his efforts, in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States, to persuade the parties of the need for strict adherence to the Yamoussoukro IV Accord, the major parties to which were to meet in Cotonou (Benin) at the end of July 1993 to sign a new agreement.

24. Throughout the Horn of Africa, emergencies created by movements of refugees, returnees and displaced persons coexisted with civil war and drought. As of 10 May 1993, pledged contributions to the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa amounted to only $172 million, compared with the total of $922 million requested for programmes in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan: hence the need to pool the financial, material and human resources of the various United Nations bodies, the individual States concerned and the non-governmental organizations involved to assist all categories of persons in need in the same geographic area.

25. In June 1993, Ethiopia had over 350,000 refugees, including 300,000 Somalis, and for the past year had been dealing with a new influx of Sudanese refugees. The United Nations system was concerned chiefly with facilitating repatriation to north-western Somalia and helping to rehabilitate that region. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UNHCR, Ethiopia and Sudan in early 1993, preparations were under way for the return from Sudan of some 50,000 Ethiopian refugees. In addition, the United Nations had to attend to almost 1 million Somali refugees, most of whom had fled to Kenya, where the situation had worsened daily in 1992 but had eased somewhat by June 1993. The prospects for voluntary repatriation to Somalia and Ethiopia had improved and advantage would be taken of them. Security problems persisted, however, in north-eastern Kenya, causing concern not only to the Kenyan authorities but also to the international community, since the difficulties jeopardized the delivery of humanitarian assistance; such assistance was still vital inasmuch as 100,000 to 150,000 persons remained displaced in the wake of ethnic clashes in western and central Kenya. Although the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia held in Addis Ababa in late March 1993 had pro-

duced agreements between the factions, they had not yet been implemented. However, the deployment of UNITAF in Somalia had led in early 1993 to a considerable improvement in the delivery of emergency relief and a dramatic drop in mortality and morbidity rates. Nevertheless, mined roads and insecurity had made it necessary for UNHCR to launch a cross-border operation between Somalia and Kenya to reduce the outflow from Somalia and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees in Kenya. Over 120 projects had been implemented to that end from three bases in Kenya and five in Somalia. UNHCR was conducting a similar cross-border operation to facilitate movements and the return of refugees from eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti to northwestern Somalia.

26. In the Sudan, the ongoing civil war, often exacerbated by natural disasters such as floods, had resulted in a continuous outflow of Sudanese refugees to Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zaire and the internal displacement of over 1.7 million persons in southern Sudan and in urban areas, particularly Khartoum. There too, security problems were severely impeding the delivery of aid. In Eritrea, on the other hand, independence and admission to the United Nations had laid the basis for the return and reintegration in due course of half a million Eritrean refugees from the Sudan. The programme was a good example of the kind of action required to ensure the relief to development continuum, one of the topics before the Council at the present session. Following the Pledging Conference for the programme held in Geneva on 6 July 1993, UNHCR hoped that the necessary preparatory activities and agreements could be concluded in 1993. It was to be hoped that the first repatriations of Eritreans would take place during the second half of 1993. In Djibouti, UNHCR had been providing assistance to some 20,000 refugees of Somali or Ethiopian origin in four camps in June 1993. The Government, however, had decided to transfer upwards of 30,000 additional refugees or displaced persons in the urban area to the camps, whose intake capacity might thus be exceeded. Some 20,000 Zairian refugees had reached Uganda since December 1993, necessitating the establishment of an assistance programme, on which UNHCR was collaborating with the Ugandan Government, WFP and a number of non-governmental organizations.

27. Three cases had demanded attention in central Africa. Angola, after 16 years of war, was again devastated by the resumption of hostilities following its first democratic elections. Almost 2 million people were in need of emergency assistance. WFP continued to provide food and UNHCR was looking after the refugees and some 100,000 returnees. In the Central African Republic, the influx of 18,000 refugees from Chad had created an emergency. UNHCR had come to the assistance of all new arrivals, including 9,700 who had been transferred to a new site. In Rwanda, UNHCR was engaged with OAU in implementing a plan aimed at providing a durable solution to a 30-year-old problem. An estimated 500,000 Rwandese had sought refuge in five neighbouring countries. The continued hostilities in the north between Government forces and the Rwanda Patriotic Front had resulted in the displacement of almost 1 million people inside the country.

28. In southern Africa, the General Peace Agreement concluded in October 1992 between the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO had paved the way for one of the largest repatriation exercises ever undertaken by the United Nations in Africa. At the end of 1992, UNHCR was assisting over 1.2 million Mozambican refugees in camps in neighbouring countries, along with a further 500,000 Mozambicans of undetermined status. By May 1993, 175,000 refugees had already returned spontaneously to Mozambique. UNHCR, acting in consultation with units of DHA, had drawn up the plan of operations for the repatriation of the Mozambicans. In May 1993, it had launched an appeal for $203.4 million, of which $55 million were needed in 1993, partly to finance mine clearance. Efforts were also being made to have not only returnees but also the 4 million internally displaced persons integrated into the long-term reconstruction and development programmes of the World Bank, UNDP and FAO.

29. With regard to South Africa, 10,957 refugees had registered for voluntary repatriation, and 6,604 of them had already returned to the country under the auspices of UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration. It was to be hoped that the 1994 elections would enable UNHCR to do more on behalf of the refugees within South Africa, including Mozambicans.

30. Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, began with a general comment on agenda item 6 (*a*). In his view, the current restructuring exercise in the United Nations provided an opportunity to revise the approach to resolutions concerning emergency relief: such resolutions should either be amalgamated in a single text or submitted only every second year. Dropping the matter from the agenda would not signal a lack of interest on the part of the international community. The annual repetition of the same appeals for generosity actually ran counter to the notion of an emergency and could prompt certain donors to question their justification. Lastly, it would be better for the countries concerned to move from the category of emergency relief to that of reconstruction.

31. As to agenda item 6 (*b*), he pointed out that one refugee in three was living in Africa. The countries of the continent were trying to pursue a generous asylum policy in spite of the difficult circumstances of their own population and the lack of infrastructure due to underdevelopment. On the legal level, a distinction was made between refugees and displaced persons but on the human and operational levels the situations concerned were often inextricably linked. Furthermore, returning people to their homes, which was not always a happy solution, created problems of infrastructure, economic rehabilitation and social integration.

32. Although it was often very difficult to estimate the number of refugees on the spot, UNHCR should make an effort to provide accurate figures to national authorities and donor countries. The European Community hoped that the States concerned would carry out effective censuses wherever possible. UNHCR, in close cooperation with DHA and the Resident Coordinator concerned, should also develop a prevention mechanism inasmuch as certain migrations were predictable and an early warning system would make it possible to act before situations got out of hand.

33. As to displaced persons, all United Nations bodies should take concerted action in consultation with DHA, because the existing organizations were not directly responsible for those persons. Their plight had all too long been neglected, although millions of people were involved. In its resolution 1993/95, the Commission on Human Rights had requested the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of its representative for displaced persons by two years. The States concerned should provide him with all necessary facilities for the accomplishment of his task.

34. The European Community and its member States wished to congratulate not only UNHCR but also the humanitarian non-governmental organizations that continued to operate in the field, notwithstanding the sacrifices their work demanded, and firmly condemned the attacks on their staff, especially those that had claimed human lives. It was impossible to remain indifferent to national policies and practices that jeopardized the safety of refugees, returnees and displaced persons by impeding the delivery of assistance. There were certainly enormous logistical problems, but difficulties often stemmed from obstruction on the part of the responsible authorities, which refused access to populations whose fate depended on humanitarian action. Moreover, such obstruction often resulted in a policy of ethnic cleansing.

35. The situation of settled or nomadic groups living in the vicinity of refugee camps should not be overlooked. Such forced propinquity often created social tension. Humanitarian organizations should include a special component in their assistance programmes to deal with it.

36. In conclusion, the European Community and its member States drew attention to the fact that responsibility for the problems that gave rise to refugee movements was almost always national. It was for States themselves to create the stable conditions that would prevent movements of refugees and displaced persons and would encourage voluntary repatriation.

37. Mr. EL KHAZEN (Observer for Lebanon) said that his country's new Government had assumed authority and reunited the Lebanese people. Development and reconstruction were its top priority. But 16 years of war had left nothing intact: the infrastructure, the economy and the currency all had to be rebuilt. Obviously, Lebanon could not accomplish such an enormous task alone. It needed assistance from its friends, the United Nations system and international organizations.

38. His country had high expectations of the programme of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon launched by the General Assembly in 1978. The World Bank had granted it a loan in support of its efforts. It had undertaken projects for the restoration of infrastructure (telecommunications, electricity, drinking water) and was introducing legislation to encourage investment. It had adopted a new tax system conducive to the establishment of companies, guaranteeing banking secrecy, protecting private property and improving the status of the Lebanese currency.

39. Lebanon would shortly be submitting a draft resolution under which the General Assembly would request Member States to participate in the reconstruction and development of the country. He knew that he could count on the members of the Council and their friends.

40. Mr. MOKBIL (Observer for Yemen) said that the economic and social difficulties facing the Republic of Yemen were described in document E/1993/101, the main points of which he would review.

41. Within a very short time, Yemen had been the scene of historic events: the unification of the country, three years of transition to democracy, the adoption of a new constitution and the first parliamentary elections in its history. The Government had to face serious structural imbalances resulting from unification and the need to establish communication networks and set up new institutions. In addition, recent events in the region had created new economic problems: many expatriates had returned to Yemen, swelling the ranks of the unemployed by 36 per cent and cutting down remittances from abroad as a source of revenue. Furthermore, natural disasters had struck the country in the past two years.

42. The Republic of Yemen was therefore dependent on aid, investment and technical assistance from the international community. It would be submitting a draft resolution requesting United Nations bodies and Member States to come to its assistance. The Yemeni Government trusted that it would be supported by the members of the Economic and Social Council.

43. Mrs. JARF (Syrian Arab Republic), commenting first on the question of assistance to Lebanon, spoke of the scale of the damage caused by the war, which had destroyed the bulk of the country's infrastructure. No sector of the economy had been spared and the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound had been severely hit. The Lebanese Government was determined to press ahead with reconstruction and rehabilitation on the basis of the Charter of National Reconciliation signed at Taif. The measures already taken demonstrated its resolve to set Lebanon back on the road to prosperity. As well as reviving certain sectors of the economy, it was currently seeking to restore stability and security throughout the country.

44. However, the scale of the task called for massive resources. Outside support was particularly necessary for the creation of a sufficient number of jobs to prevent unemployment from forcing young people to emigrate. The Lebanese Government therefore needed increased assistance from the Arab countries in particular and the international community in general, through United Nations bodies. The Syrian Arab Republic would therefore unreservedly support the draft resolution to be submitted on the matter.

45. With regard to assistance to Yemen, the country had embarked on a course of democratization and was faced with severe structural imbalances that made the Government's task extremely difficult. Unification called for the establishment of new institutions and the adoption of new legislation. Already enormous infrastructure requirements were made even more urgent as a result of the inflow of refugees from the Horn of Africa. Unemployment had increased by 36 per cent. Those difficulties were compounded by the loss of revenue due to the return of Yemeni workers from abroad and the damage recently caused by natural disasters.

46. Yemen, which was one of the least developed countries, needed cheap foreign aid and soft loans to enable it to implement a countrywide economic and social development plan. For those reasons, the Syrian Arab Republic would support the draft resolution to be submitted on the matter.

47. Mrs. AL-KHALID (Kuwait), referring to the question of assistance to Lebanon, noted that the process of national reconciliation had paved the way for constitutional and political reforms that should enable Lebanon to recover its influence and resume its traditional civilizing role.

48. In the initial stages, however, international assistance was necessary to erase the aftermath of war. Kuwait, itself a victim of occupation that had caused damage on a well-known scale, had increased its assistance to Lebanon by granting some $6 million for the reconstruction of sports facilities, 26 million Kuwaiti dinars for the restoration of electric power stations and the drinking water supply network, 100,000 dinars for the training of civil servants and a similar sum for studies on agricultural development. Kuwait also planned to support other projects for the repair and modernization of airports and port facilities.

49. It was to be hoped that the international community would follow Kuwait's example and provide Lebanon with the requisite assistance for its rehabilitation. In that connection, it was gratifying to note that the industrial countries had offered support for Lebanon's reconstruction at the recent G-7 summit. It was a decision that should encourage the resumption of investment in the country.

50. In conclusion, the delegation of Kuwait hoped that the draft resolution to be submitted would receive unanimous support.

51. Mr. HAMDAN (Observer for Palestine) said that the document bearing the symbol E/1993/62, which contained the report on the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, organized pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/170 and held at UNESCO Headquarters from 26 to 29 April 1993, should have been considered under agenda item 4 (*b*) (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations) instead of under item 6 (*b*), which dealt solely with humanitarian assistance. Palestine would therefore submit its observations on that document during the discussion of item 4 (*b*).

52. Mr. KHALIL (Observer for Egypt) and Mrs. JARF (Syrian Arab Republic) said they endorsed the point made by the Observer for Palestine.

53. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had had document E/1993/62 distributed under item 6 (*b*) of the provisional agenda of the Council at the request of the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It had since been informed that the document should have been distributed under agenda item 4 (*b*). It would therefore request the Chairman of the Committee to send a new letter informing it of his wishes and the Council would act accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued**)

54. The PRESIDENT, introducing the draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development" (E/1993/L.28), said that it had been prepared following a detailed exchange of views between a number of delegations representing various groups of countries and almost all the delegations. The draft resolution took a practical and pragmatic approach to the task of improving the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which emphasized the need to integrate the activities of the United Nations system in national development programmes. More specifically, the idea was to move the system's operational mechanisms closer to the place of programme implementation, to prime them to respond better and more quickly to national needs, to improve them in the light of experience and to enhance the coordination of operational activities at the national level. The text of the draft was relatively simple and explicit. It was therefore to be hoped that it would secure a very wide consensus.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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* Resumed from the 35th meeting.

39th meeting

Thursday, 22 July 1993, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.39

AGENDA ITEM 8

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

1. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl) briefly described his recent mission to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; the trip had shown him that, seven years after Chernobyl, the consequences of the tragedy were everywhere and made it indispensable to continue international cooperation to help the people struck by the tragedy.

2. However, as the weak response to the Pledging Conference for Chernobyl of 1991 had shown, a new approach to cooperation had to be worked out. International efforts should be based on a serious evaluation of the situation and a consistent strategy, prepared in close cooperation with the States concerned, which should be expected to show greater openness on issues of nuclear safety. That trend was encouraged by the political upheavals that had recently taken place in those countries.

3. A meeting in Kiev in November 1992 with representatives of the three Governments had laid the foundations for that new form of cooperation, which focused on specific projects. The participants had defined several priority areas for action: health, socio-psychological and economic rehabilitation and agriculture. Subsequently, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl had met in Geneva in April 1993 to take stock of projects in those areas and the results achieved so far. Through IPHECA, WHO had thus provided essential medical equipment and services for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancers in children in the affected areas.

4. Another example was the project being implemented by the FAO/IAEA Joint Division, with funding from the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl, which aimed at reducing the radioactive contamination of milk and meat in grazing animals in the affected areas. The project was still in the experimental stage, but according to results achieved so far, an annual investment of several thousand dollars had been estimated as having saved the Government of Belarus tens of millions of dollars. The project was scheduled for implementation in all three affected States in 1993.

5. The Task Force agencies attending the meeting had also submitted priority projects with clear-cut timeframes, to be financed from their regular budgets and from extrabudgetary funds, with the following objectives: research on and treatment of thyroid cancer in children; establishment of nine psychological rehabilitation centres, for which financing had already been secured; registration, diagnosis and treatment of the 800,000 or so workers who had cleaned up and decontaminated the Chernobyl site and who were living at present throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union; and creation of an economic and social development area in the Russian Federation initially, and then in Belarus and Ukraine.

6. On 26 May 1993, a meeting had taken place in Minsk with the ministers of the three countries in charge of Chernobyl relief. The talks had been very productive and it had been decided to continue that type of high-level meeting once or twice a year. The participants had conducted an extensive and detailed analysis of the state of international cooperation on Chernobyl and agreed on the need for strengthening international cooperation, according to the new project-oriented approach. In particular, they had called for a more effective division of labour and better coordination among the partners, with the United Nations acting as a catalyst. There had also been general agreement on the need for a flexible funding strategy which would seek financing on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis to complement the resources of the United Nations system. The participants had also decided to focus all their efforts on priority projects to meet the needs of the affected population in the three countries, to establish a quadripartite committee on coordination between the national authorities and the United Nations system, to encourage the specialized agencies to incorporate activities relating to Chernobyl into their programmes and to request the Director-General of WHO to consider the possibility of a project on the study and treatment of the health of the persons who had taken part directly in cleaning up the site.

7. The Minsk meeting had also endorsed the new strategy of the United Nations system as the most realistic approach to mitigating the consequences of the Cherno-

byl disaster. In order for its results to be effective, however, the international community should provide appropriate assistance, out of enlightened self-interest.

8. Mr. VAN CRAEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that, although international aid—lower than expected, for all that—made it possible to run a few small projects aimed at mitigating the effects of Chernobyl, the most significant efforts had been made in the regional framework, especially with regard to nuclear safety. The second Conference on Environment for Europe, recently held at Lucerne, had devoted part of its work to that question. The European Community, as part of its programme of Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States, had granted aid in the amount of 60 million ECUs to the Russian Federation and Ukraine in 1992. It had also supported the establishment by EBRD of a multilateral fund for nuclear reactor safety and radiation protection to which it contributed in the amount of 20 million ECUs. In addition, several member States of the Community were providing substantial bilateral aid to the three affected countries.

9. The European Community obviously attached special importance to work done under the auspices of the United Nations, but it had to be acknowledged that, until recently, the attitude of the three countries in question, which were not in a position to define their needs and projects, had been a serious obstacle. The quadripartite meeting held in Minsk in May 1993 had represented definite progress in that regard. The three participating countries had accepted the principle of an intervention strategy based on the implementation of very specific projects in several areas, including health, where it had to be admitted that a more sustained international effort was essential. They had also indicated their desire to show greater transparency in their nuclear energy policies.

10. As part of that new approach, it was advisable, especially in view of the extent of European assistance, that the European Community's programmes should be better coordinated with those of the United Nations system in order to bring about a better division of labour that would take comparative advantages into account and make it possible to avoid duplication. In that connection, the European Community awaited with interest the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, which would contain an overall evaluation of the activities carried out under United Nations auspices. A detailed assessment of the activities of the United Nations Coordinator, whose functions had been transferred to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, would be particularly useful, given the decision to be taken by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session. The European Community, for its part, wondered whether it was necessary to keep that item on the agenda of the Council and Assembly sessions year after year, since the attrition effect could only defeat the purpose of assistance for the victims of Chernobyl.

11. Mr. MARDOVITCH (Belarus) said that everyone knew what consequences Chernobyl had had for his country, the hardest hit in the region. Unfortunately, Belarus, which was a country in transition in every respect, did not have sufficient resources to deal with them. Tensions were therefore very high among the 2 million persons or so who were from the contaminated zone, who knew that they were being exposed to oncological, endocrinological, cardiovascular, digestive, haematological and psychological illnesses, in addition to genetic diseases. In one region, between 1988 and 1992, the number of cases of thyroid cancer in children had been multiplied by 75, often metastasizing rapidly. The immune systems of all children had been weakened, and that exposed them to all sorts of diseases.

12. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl had given an accurate description of the international community's activities to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. It was hoped that that concerted action, which had already produced results, could be conducted even more effectively in the future. The hopes initially placed in United Nations action had probably been somewhat naïve and it was disappointing that, despite the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the capacities of the United Nations system were not being used to the full. Belarus therefore hoped that the new United Nations Coordinator would improve the situation and especially strengthen the role of the secretariats.

13. Nevertheless, the Inter-Agency Task Force, meeting in April at Geneva, had noted encouraging progress and the United Nations Coordinator had seen what measures had been taken when he had visited the disaster-stricken areas in late May. The quadripartite meeting in which he had taken part in Minsk on 26 May, with representatives of the three affected countries, had been particularly constructive: after conducting a detailed analysis of the situation, the participants had decided to stress the priority projects, to establish a quadripartite coordination committee with the participation of the three States and the United Nations Coordinator, to identify possible sources of funding on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis and to encourage the incorporation of the Chernobyl problem into the regular activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The participants had also requested the Director-General of WHO to review the possibility of beginning a project for the people who had taken part in the clean-up of the area immediately after the accident.

14. More generally, IPHECA should be continued, as should the projects being carried out by UNESCO. International action must be capable of coping with that extraordinary accident, which was a lesson for countries throughout the world. Belarus would therefore like to see the question continue to be studied periodically by the United Nations and specialized agencies and hoped that

everything possible would be done to strengthen the secretariats concerned.

15. Unfortunately, the financing of the projects undertaken was still particularly uncertain. Whereas hundreds of millions of dollars would be necessary, in 1991, there had been less than $1 million in contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl and some $8 million in bilateral contributions. The United Nations and the three disaster-stricken States would therefore have to obtain the extra contributions that were essential to conducting priority projects.

16. Mr. NAPALKOV (World Health Organization) said that, following WHO's adoption of IPHECA in 1991 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/190 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50, WHO had incorporated the Chernobyl programme into its regular activities.

17. Although work on IPHECA had begun immediately and continued in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, financial constraints had meant that projects could be implemented in no more than five areas (haematology, thyroid problems, epidemiological registry, oral health and brain damage *in utero*), with emphasis on medical examinations of the population. The Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine nevertheless recognized IPHECA as the most effective international activity to mitigate the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Tens of thousands of people had been examined as part of pilot projects. It had been noted, for example, that the incidence of thyroid cancer in children from the Gomel area in Belarus was considerably higher than that of children in the bordering areas in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which had received comparable radiation amounts. The delivery of equipment and diagnostic kits by WHO was well under way and nearly 150 specialists from the three States had been trained. Protocols for clinical and epidemiological studies had been finalized.

18. To ensure the coordination of IPHECA with other international programmes, WHO had convened a meeting at Geneva in May 1993 with representatives from the three States and the majority of the relevant international and national organizations. The representatives of the three States had informed the meeting that they had established a group for the coordination of activities under IPHECA with the other international health-related Chernobyl projects. It had also been agreed to promote the regular exchange of information on the progress of various projects. An inventory of all relevant activities was being prepared.

19. When the pilot phase of IPHECA came to an end in mid-1994, other resources would have to be found, such as the voluntary contributions advocated by the World Health Assembly, in order to continue the supply of equipment and medicines and to continue the projects begun. The abrupt discontinuation of the programme would be very distressful for the affected populations and, in the opinion of the experts, existing projects should be continued for at least another five years. In that context, it was worth mentioning that the ministers concerned in the three affected countries had decided to give the highest priority to the mitigation of the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

20. IPHECA therefore had to be expanded to include other projects that had been recognized as essential, some of which had been mentioned at the quadripartite meeting in Minsk. The participants in that meeting had stressed the need to incorporate a project on the study and treatment of the health of the persons who had taken part in the clean-up efforts immediately following the accident. Projects also had to be undertaken in other areas (identification and reduction of the psycho-social impact of the accident and its genetic effects, dose reconstruction and general health status of the affected populations).

21. To continue existing projects and initiate new ones, it was necessary to mobilize more resources. The entire international community must learn from the Chernobyl accident and the projected studies would allow for the development of realistic plans in case of similar events in the future. In addition, better knowledge of the effects of exposure to radiation would make it possible to improve comparisons between risks of different forms of energy production. However, those were long-term research activities that would require sustained efforts both locally and internationally, especially with regard to resources.

22. Mr. GORELIK (Russian Federation) thanked the United Nations Coordinator, who had in a very short time galvanized the institutions participating in United Nations activities aimed at mitigating the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The Coordinator's visits in 1993 to the three countries affected by the disaster had been extremely useful, as had the quadripartite meeting recently held at ministerial level in Minsk: the meeting had been a turning-point, for it had made it possible to develop the principles to be used for stepping up operational activities aimed at removing the effects of the disaster. The method that had been chosen was the best one: basing activities on the real needs currently being experienced by the people. To that end, it was essential for the three States directly involved also to adopt a concerted approach, for that was a condition if United Nations bodies were to be able fully to play their role as catalyst. An entire new system of cooperation had been developed in Minsk.

23. In order to intensify activities, a round table to be attended by donor countries and the most directly affected countries, as well as by representatives of the private sector, might be organized with a view to mobilizing additional resources, for currently available resources were obviously insufficient. The Russian Federation, for its part, would be prepared to submit projects to donors for consideration at such a round table. While it was true that many organizations of the system were

doing excellent work, further extrabudgetary resources were essential, particularly to strengthen medical activities, because the WHO programme would soon be financed through extrabudgetary resources only. It was a relatively low-cost, but extremely effective programme, and care must be taken not to interrupt the deliveries of equipment being made under it.

24. An international conference had been held in February 1993 on the scientific and practical aspects of medical and social problems and the role of the sanatorium and spa system in improving the health of the population exposed to the effects of radiation as a consequence of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and of other radiological disasters. The participants in the conference had appealed to parliaments, Governments and the international community to intensify their efforts to help save the lives and protect the health of the people affected by the accident and fully revitalize the regions that had been exposed to contamination. That appeal must be heard, for it was absolutely vital for the international community to take preventive measures at the global level.

25. Mr. SERAYDARIAN (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that UNIDO participated actively in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force to address the consequences of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, established in 1991. Unfortunately, the resources collected internationally had never been sufficient to enable the Task Force to consider financing the UNIDO projects, which had remained pending. However, at its November 1992 meeting in Kiev, the Task Force had made an appeal for increased international assistance and given high priority to the economic rehabilitation of the three countries most affected by the disaster. Following that meeting, UNIDO had initiated its own efforts to mobilize resources for the preparation of an industrial survey to provide a database for the industries damaged by the accident, to help them get back on their feet. In April 1993, at Geneva, the Task Force had endorsed that project, which was to begin in Belarus, the country most affected by the Chernobyl accident. The achievements of the Task Force would remain modest as long as it had not been provided with adequate resources.

26. Mr. GONZÁLEZ (International Atomic Energy Agency) said that the international project, which was aimed at evaluating the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident for human health and the environment and had been organized by IAEA in 1990 with the participation of the Commission of the European Communities, FAO, ILO, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, WHO and WMO, had led to conclusions that still stood. Medically speaking, those conclusions were basically the following: there had been no evidence at the time of the project of health disorders directly attributable to radiation exposure; increases in the incidence of radiation-induced cancers and hereditary effects would be difficult to discern, on the basis of the dose estimated and currently accepted radiation risk estimates; and there was likely to be a statistically detectable increase in the incidence of thyroid tumours in children.

27. Bearing those conclusions in mind, the project report had made the following recommendations, in particular: there was a need to implement programmes to alleviate the psychological effects of the disaster, public health programmes to address issues unrelated to the Chernobyl disaster and special medical programmes for certain high-risk groups, such as children with a high absorbed thyroid dose; epidemiological studies should concentrate on prospective cohort studies of selected high-risk populations, more effectively through WHO; and, in any event, improvements should be made in the statistical data collection and registry systems used by local scientists and internationally accepted standards and methods should be applied.

28. Unfortunately, the projects implemented to mitigate the consequences of the disaster had often been based on immediate political interests with little attention given to the scientific facts and findings of the IAEA Chernobyl project, with the exceptions of the FAO/IAEA project on caesium binding and IPHECA. The foregoing reflections should help the affected republics and the international community to redesign action for the future. IAEA looked forward to the renewed work of the Inter-Agency Task Force and was convinced that the new approach described by the United Nations Coordinator would be based on factual scientific work.

29. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine) said that, when the Chernobyl disaster had occurred, the leaders of the former USSR had, for ideological reasons, hidden the truth from their people and the extent of the damage from the rest of the world. That was why the appeal for aid from the international community had been made only four years later. It had to be acknowledged, however, that that appeal had not fallen on deaf ears. The United Nations had reacted immediately by mobilizing its Member States. The disaster had been put on the agenda of all the following sessions of the General Assembly, which had adopted three resolutions (45/190, 46/150 and 47/165), the last of which had had 120 sponsors, something of a record. At the present time, all United Nations bodies were dealing with the issue in one way or another. Ukraine wished to express its gratitude to those bodies and their staff, as well as to non-governmental organizations.

30. That impetus was nevertheless beginning to run down. Routine and inertia were setting in. Not all the programmes undertaken were sufficiently in line with the actual situation and not all aimed at short-term results. Financial aid was neither stable nor sustained. In fact, humanitarian aid in the case at hand was largely insufficient. Ukraine had the impression at times that it was facing its problems alone.

31. That was not preventing it from acting, for it considered international aid to be only a supplement. In

1993, it had begun a broad national programme to help the populations affected and the contaminated areas. It had established a radiological medicine centre for the diagnosis, screening and treatment of the diseases caused by the radiation. It had adopted a law under which several hundred thousand persons would receive special allowances. It had also very successfully organized a series of projects for isolating and neutralizing unit number 4, which had been damaged in the accident. To give an idea of the extent of that initiative, that programme absorbed one third of Ukraine's annual budget.

32. He provided a few figures to indicate the extent of the effects of the disaster and added that many figures had not yet appeared. For that reason, Ukraine hoped that the Chernobyl issue would continue to receive attention from the Member States of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions. It could indeed be seen as a kind of test of the capacities of United Nations emergency mechanisms. The experience gained in international cooperation would certainly be valuable for the protection of mankind and the environment in the event of a large-scale disaster.

33. From that point of view, Ukraine welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of the United Nations Coordinator. The Coordinator had travelled to the region and met the ministers concerned of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. On another matter, it would be useful for the representatives of the specialized agencies to be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

34. The Minsk meeting had made it possible to strengthen cooperation and come to an agreement on short-term and long-term objectives. Ukraine, for its part, had identified four priority areas of action: medical care, for the four categories of persons affected; transfer of the most affected populations; socio-psychological recovery of the populations; and restoration of agriculture and the environment. It hoped to see those priorities reflected in the programmes conducted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

35. Ukraine was also pleased to see a growing determination towards a more effective division of labour among the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the Member States, but also among the United Nations and regional organizations such as the European Community and the EBRD. Sound working bases had been laid and there was a good understanding of the problems involved. But that cooperation would have no concrete results if international resources for supporting national efforts were not forthcoming. Ukraine had high hopes for non-governmental organizations and international organizations and wondered whether a conference should not be held. On the eve of the meeting of the G-7 countries in Tokyo, its President had made an appeal for international assistance, in particular to cover the power station's unit number 4, and to establish an international centre for radiological studies. He hoped that that appeal would be heeded.

36. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that, because of the scale of the Chernobyl accident and the nature of its consequences, an exhaustive scientific study of its consequences should be a long-term goal of international cooperation, with efforts being aimed primarily at the emergency personnel and the people evacuated from the prohibited zone around the Chernobyl plant. However, in order to ensure consistently reliable results from the many local laboratories taking the measurements, a quality control programme should be set up to ensure international calibration of instruments and comparability of findings. The fact that Ukraine and Belarus were re-establishing their national radiation protection infrastructures was an additional reason for providing an international assistance programme in that area.

37. Poland, as one of the countries affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, was deeply interested in the examination of its immediate effects as well as its possible long-term impact. It therefore believed that the long-term safety of the "sarcophagus" should be a component of the international assistance programme that was so urgently needed by Ukraine.

38. The complex and inter-disciplinary character of the task required major input by the international community. Poland therefore welcomed the growing involvement of the United Nations system in those activities. It particularly welcomed the appointment of a United Nations Coordinator and the establishment of a small United Nations secretariat for Chernobyl.

39. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl) said that the analytical study of all United Nations activities relating to the Chernobyl accident requested by the General Assembly would be conducted in cooperation with the various United Nations bodies and the representatives of the three countries concerned. The United Nations was also preparing plans for financing the projects planned by the specialized agencies, in order to submit them to potential donors. Those donors had already been informed of the results of the meetings held in the capitals of the three countries concerned. During a meeting in Brussels, it had been decided that the European Community and the United Nations would regularly conduct exchanges of information and evidence.

40. The three countries concerned had also submitted their own projects, which had been put at the top of the list of those for which the United Nations was seeking financing. In the medium term, a ministerial meeting was being planned following the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly or at the beginning of 1994.

41. In the longer term, the United Nations system intended to continue conducting the programmes that were yielding good results, especially the WHO and IAEA/FAO programmes, which were, moreover, seeking additional financing. The UNIDO project on the exhaustive

economic study of the affected zones already held a priority position in requests for financing.

42. The United Nations offices in the three capitals were providing valuable services. They had been of great help for the meetings held there, especially the ministerial meeting in Minsk. Their orders were to keep abreast of developments in the situation and periodically report on it to Headquarters.

43. The PRESIDENT said that the countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster did not find it necessary to submit a draft resolution. He proposed that the Council should adopt the following decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council has taken note of the report of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, endorses the proposals contained therein for future action on this issue and decides to keep the matter under review."

44. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that decision.

It was so decided [decision 1993/232].

45. The PRESIDENT announced that the debate was concluded on agenda item 8 on the Chernobyl disaster.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

40th meeting

Thursday, 22 July 1993, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. Olexandre SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine)

E/1993/SR.40

AGENDA ITEM 7

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

1. Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the agenda item, said the United Nations was so occupied with major complex emergencies that there was a risk that natural disasters might not receive the attention they deserved. Given the incidence of natural disaster in the past four or five years, it was clear that the international community needed the capacity to deal also with natural disasters. Their cost to the world community in 1991 had been calculated at some $44 billion. Some 80 to 90 per cent of that cost and of the casualties had been borne by the developing countries. Insurance payments, on the other hand, had gone largely to the 20 per cent of damage incurred in the developed world. The problem of the cost and the distribution of the burden of natural disaster was therefore enormous. The international community needed to develop a mechanism for prevention and mitigation in the areas most liable to natural disaster.

2. As an example of the relationship between natural disaster and poverty, he cited Bangladesh where, in August 1991, 140,000 people had been drowned by a six-*metre* tidal wave while planting rice in an area barely above sea level. He had visited the area in 1992 and seen almost the same number of people working there again, their ranks swelled by a quarter of a million refugees from Myanmar.

3. It was important to harmonize the work of disaster mitigation with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Arrangements were therefore being made to integrate the Decade secretariat into DHA. That secretariat, which had been established for the purposes of the Decade, would gain from working with the Disaster Mitigation Branch of DHA. He hoped Member States would provide sufficient resources to allow them to work efficiently.

4. The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held in May 1994, offered an opportunity to mobilize resources for promoting disaster mitigation. The Department would work with the host Government, Japan, and with the specialized agencies and other partners in the preparations for the Conference, which would be a great opportunity for bringing the problem to the centre of attention of world public opinion.

5. Mr. ELO (Director, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Secretariat) said that natural disasters were continuing to occur in developing and developed countries alike, causing worsening damage. According to insurance statistics, financial losses due to natural disasters had been rising steadily. The developing countries

had invariably been the worst hit and most deaths occurred in the developing world.

6. Nevertheless, disasters were not unavoidable. The hazards threatening each country, sometimes aggravated by acts of man, such as deforestation or the spread of uncontrolled technology which destroyed the environment, were well known. The adverse consequences of natural events could be reduced and prevented from becoming a disaster through mitigation, prevention and preparedness. The scientific knowledge and technology for early warning existed, but their use must be improved. Simple structural improvements could produce earthquake-resistant housing, land-use regulations could prevent building in hazardous zones, and the lives of people living in flood plains could be saved by timely warning and evacuation. The application of appropriate technology, not always necessarily expensive, could prevent disasters, and awareness and information could prepare people to cope with events and save valuable lives and property. Even large-scale potential disasters could be prevented through timely and sustained effort, the most recent example being the current Southern African Drought Emergency Operation. The strengthening of national capacities for disaster management, which should be the ultimate goal, had produced remarkable results.

7. Investment in disaster reduction was less burdensome than the ever-rising cost of disaster relief. Disaster mitigation was the key to containing disaster costs. At the initiative of the world scientific community, the General Assembly, in resolution 44/236, had proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and had set as its target the saving of lives and the reduction of the property damage and social and economic disruption caused by disasters. The resolution had also defined the International Framework of Action for the Decade, which was in place and functioning. Countries were beginning to act systematically to protect themselves from natural and other hazards.

8. The Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee established by the resolution had done well in steering the Decade through its first three years. The Special High-Level Council had met twice and at its second meeting had adopted the 12-point Plan of Action towards the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. The Scientific and Technical Committee had been instrumental in formulating the programme for the Decade, adopting an information strategy and setting rules for the approval of projects to be promoted during the Decade. Individual members of the Committee had participated in global, regional and national meetings. Its most significant achievement had been the definition of specific targets to be reached by each vulnerable country, which the General Assembly had endorsed in its resolution 46/149 in 1991. By the year 2000, each country should have in place a comprehensive national assessment of risks from natural hazards, the assessment being taken into account in development plans; mitigation plans at the national and local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness; and ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination warnings. The Secretary-General had also established a steering committee to coordinate the United Nations contribution to the Decade and provide a framework for coordinated action. As the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/97) showed, several United Nations agencies had made considerable progress in disaster mitigation activities.

9. Progress had also been made in consolidating the Decade secretariat. It was working on the strategies for the second half of the Decade. The approximately 100 national committees or focal points had been requested to report on their activities and information on the various ongoing demonstration projects was being updated. Several regional initiatives had been taken to promote the Decade and information on all those developments could be provided to the General Assembly at its next session.

10. The Decade continued to be the focus for disaster mitigation, including prevention and preparedness. It provided a platform for the promotion of disaster reduction by States, the scientific community, the United Nations and other partners in the Decade, and supported activities in both developed and developing countries. However, it would only be able to meet the expectations it had aroused if it was fully backed by the partners and if the programmes and projects selected for implementation received sufficient financial and technical support. Commitment to the Decade's goals and objectives was still very uneven, some Governments, agencies and scientific associations being very active while many others were not.

11. The Decade secretariat had been charged with a wide range of duties, including the promotion of disaster mitigation activities, the coordination of international agencies, national authorities and Decade committees, and communication with the scientific community and the private sector. Public information activities were a priority.

12. Unfortunately, the resources provided for the Decade were not sufficient for sustained work towards the objectives defined by member countries. Funding was entirely based on extrabudgetary contributions, including the funding of the core functions of the secretariat. Technical and financial support for the secretariat should be consolidated, as should voluntary contributions for disaster mitigation made either through the Trust Fund for the Decade or bilaterally.

13. Keeping disaster mitigation in mind in preparing national development plans would ensure that projects reduced, not added to, vulnerability. More Governments should become consistent supporters of the Decade. There should be more interaction between the national committees of developed and developing countries and between the United Nations and other agencies within the framework of the Decade. It would be desirable for

the private sector also to become a major force. In that way, the goals and targets of the Decade, particularly the strengthening of developing-country capacity at the national and local level, could be achieved.

14. The world had changed since the General Assembly proclaimed the Decade and established its framework: complex emergencies were currently overwhelming the international capacity for assistance. DHA had been established to provide an overall coordination mechanism, into which the Decade secretariat had been integrated. The agreed conclusions on the coordination of humanitarian assistance adopted by the Council on 9 July 1993 (E/1993/L.25), which contained several references to natural disaster prevention and preparedness, provided an excellent framework for future action.

15. Together with the other branches of the Department, the Decade secretariat was continuing to promote disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness as an essential element in the continuum from emergency relief to development. Practical mechanisms were being worked out for coordinating its functions with the advisory and country support functions of the Disaster Mitigation Branch, the agencies in their implementing role and the support of donors.

16. At the invitation of the Japanese Government, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was to be convened at Yokohama from 23 to 27 May 1994. The Conference would contribute to the mid-term evaluation of the Decade which the Council was called upon to make in 1994 for reporting to the forty-eighth session of the following General Assembly. To that end, the aims of the Conference included a review of the progress of Decade activities at the national, regional and international levels; an exchange of information on the implementation of activities and the development of plans for the second half of the Decade; and the promotion of increased awareness of disaster reduction policies among high-level officials.

17. The Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade had stressed the importance of the review progress, especially at the national level. The Decade secretariat, charged with the preparatory work, had been working extensively with the host Government, with the preparatory committee and with the United Nations and specialized agencies and other organizations and associations. The Conference programme had been defined, the first announcements circulated and the national committees requested to prepare their reports. The specialized agencies had joined in a truly collaborative effort.

18. The Decade secretariat had made the Conference its top priority. Additional resources were urgently needed and a firm commitment by the United Nations to the Conference would provide the support required for its success. It would provide an opportunity for further promotion of disaster reduction and a platform for closer collaboration between the countries and their national committees, the United Nations, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and other partners in the Decade, as well as an opportunity to review achievements, exchange views and participate in planning for the second half of the Decade and beyond. Much remained to be done to achieve the goals and targets set for the Decade: there must be a joint effort to map the road ahead.

19. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan) said that while natural disasters could occur anywhere they affected developing countries particularly severely and aggravated the problems of underdevelopment and poverty. That was why Decade activities were becoming increasingly important, and Japan, as one of the initiators of the Decade, would continue its efforts to ensure that the objectives set were achieved.

20. At the Special High-Level Council meeting in January 1993, the Japanese Government had, accordingly, offered to host the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction at Yokohama in May 1994. The Conference would provide an occasion for the mid-term review of progress made during the Decade and would lay down guidelines for the second half of the period. In order to ensure the success of the Conference, all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system should participate actively in the preparatory process, and his delegation intended, in collaboration with other interested countries, to present a resolution at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly to that end.

21. Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, remarked that the cost of natural disasters in lives and economic losses had been illustrated once again by the recent disasters in India, Japan and the United States of America. The members of the European Community expressed their sympathy to all countries affected by disasters.

22. The United Nations was particularly well-suited for action in that area. DHA with its specific responsibilities for disaster management and capacity-building for prevention was already actively engaged in that work through the Decade secretariat. The Decade, with its interdisciplinary approach, could cover all relevant sectors and ensure the effective participation of the private sector, the non-governmental organizations, the media and scientific and educational institutions. It could generate global awareness, a spirit of partnership in disaster prevention, and the support of national institutions.

23. It was encouraging that national committees had already been established in 108 countries, but the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/97) did not indicate whether their geographical distribution coincided with areas particularly exposed to natural disasters. He hoped a table could be made available indicating areas in which the Decade should concentrate its efforts. As coordination was one of the essential aspects of disaster management, the operational agencies of the system should

work in close cooperation with DHA and the Decade secretariat through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. It would be helpful to have more specific details about action on Decade objectives by relevant United Nations bodies.

24. The link with development should receive particular attention in formulating programmes. In order to enable the General Assembly to decide on the new budget of the Department at the forthcoming session, a full account should be prepared of the specializations, differences and complementarities within the Department, particularly as concerned the Decade secretariat and the Disaster Mitigation Branch. If it became clear that the Decade secretariat was experiencing difficulties in carrying out those functions because of its temporary structure, the General Assembly might consider the advisability of providing it with a more structured basis. The members of the European Community wished to thank the Department, the Decade secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Committee for the comprehensive report presented to the Council. They would, however, like to see more consideration given in the Secretary-General's report to specific tasks and the progress made by the Department in the field of disaster reduction, and to the real contributions made by the development organizations of the system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

25. The member States of the European Community wished to express their appreciation of the Japanese Government's offer to host the World Conference at Yokohama. The Conference would contribute to the conduct of the mid-term review and prepare an action programme for the second period. The contributions of the national committees, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations would be decisive, and should be preceded by extensive coordination on the ground, in which the national committees would play a major role. Resident representatives should cooperate closely with them and ensure that their organizations took account of Decade objectives in their programmes. The Conference would also be able to contribute to the formulation of a technical action programme and should review the results achieved at the national level. One of its main objectives, however, should be to make such results more widely known at the regional level both for their preventive value and as contributions to development. The developing countries exposed to natural disasters would undoubtedly be able to make available their extensive and specific experience to international and regional programmes.

26. Mr. WU Hailong (China) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the contributions made by the United Nations bodies concerned to work for the Decade, in particular the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee. His delegation also wished to thank the Japanese Government for its offer to host the World Conference and had taken note of the 12-point Plan of Action.

27. China believed the Conference would provide an occasion both to carry out the mid-term review of the Decade and to plan work for the remaining years. To that end, it was imperative to ensure the full participation of all Member States in the preparatory process, which should set the objectives, identify the themes and establish the priorities for the Conference, as well as deciding on the appropriate procedures.

28. His delegation attached great importance to activities for the Decade, particularly in view of the frequent occurrence of natural disasters in recent times. They caused enormous economic losses and heavy casualties, which seriously affected the economic and social development of developing countries. Disaster reduction was, therefore, an issue to which the international community, and specifically the United Nations, should give high priority.

29. Developing countries were poorly equipped to take disaster prevention measures, and assistance from the international community, especially the developed countries, was sorely needed to transfer technical and scientific knowledge and provide financial resources for the establishment of monitoring and early-warning systems. Assistance to disaster-stricken countries was essentially humanitarian in nature and should not be tarnished by political or ideological preferences. The sovereignty and wishes of the recipient countries should always be respected.

30. The United Nations could strengthen its role in disaster reduction and ensure effective coordination of activities by the various members of the system. His delegation hoped progress would be made in that respect as a result of the integration of the secretariat of the Decade into DHA.

31. China had taken a number of effective steps to improve its disaster-reduction capability and had been actively involved in international cooperation to that end. With its extensive and repeated experience of disasters, China fully realized the importance of international cooperation. An international conference on disaster management had recently been held in Beijing, at which major issues had been discussed and useful suggestions and proposals made. His delegation strongly believed that concerted efforts and strengthened cooperation could reduce losses from natural disasters and promote social progress and economic development.

32. Mr. VOSKRESENSKY (Russian Federation) said his delegation strongly supported the objectives and activities of the Decade and wished to express its appreciation of the efforts of the Decade secretariat. A national committee had recently been established in the Russian Federation, with the primary task of deciding on the strategy for participation in Decade activities at the national, regional and international levels. One aspect was the analysis currently being conducted of the situation in all fields of activity relating to disaster reduction and mitigation of the social, economic, ecological and other

consequences. The results would be taken into account in preparing the Russian Federation's programme of participation in the Decade and in concrete research and practical work, with appropriate scope assigned to international cooperation. It was already clear that, as far as the Russian Federation was concerned, a particularly appropriate form of cooperation would be the exchange of experience on a number of important topics, including: natural disaster monitoring, risk assessment, early-warning and prevention measures; preparedness of the public, and of State and socio-economic structures to manage disasters, and respond rapidly to them; the training of specialized personnel to deal with emergency situations resulting from disasters; ensuring that the public was properly informed and trained on what to do on receiving advance warning of a disaster, during the disaster itself, and in dealing with its consequences. His country attached great importance to regional cooperation and had entered into closely coordinated arrangements with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including the establishment of an international council on natural and industrial emergencies, which had adopted a special decision on joint participation of member countries in the Decade. That measure was in the spirit of the Decade and would enable the countries concerned to participate jointly and more effectively in Decade programmes. The Russian Federation's efforts alone were, however, clearly insufficient, and he hoped that the Decade secretariat would draw the attention of the representatives of other member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the Decade programmes and would provide assistance for the prompt establishment in those countries of new specialized structures. The national committee of the Russian Federation was prepared to participate practically in cooperation within the framework of the Decade with other countries, and to organize transfer of the experience of Russian institutions in disaster reduction. It was also interested in receiving information on the experience of other countries and international organizations.

33. Mr. MILLER (World Meteorological Organization) reiterated the support of WMO for the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction.

34. Natural disaster reduction was a major concern of the national meteorological and hydrological services in member countries of WMO and had been adopted as a major objective for the period 1992-2001. WMO had adopted a plan for the Decade, which noted that many WMO activities, particularly those under the World Weather Watch and Hydrology and Water Resources Programmes had similar objectives to those of the Decade.

35. WMO felt that the most important task of the Decade was the application of existing technologies and procedures to disaster reduction, and it placed particular emphasis on technology transfer, institution building, the provision of equipment and facilities, and human resource development. Its plan designated three special projects for the Decade: tropical cyclone warning for the south-west Indian Ocean region; comprehensive risk assessment, and a system for technology exchange. It was also cooperating with the International Council of Scientific Unions on research into the mechanisms causing tropical cyclones. Owing to lack of resources, progress had not always been as fast as had been hoped, and WMO was grateful for the extra-budgetary assistance it had received. WMO supported the work of the organs of the Decade and had attended sessions of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Inter-Agency Working Group. It was planning to participate actively in the Yokohama World Conference, which it saw as a valuable opportunity to review decade activities and make the aims of the Decade more widely known. WMO would be organizing the session on warning systems during the Conference and would make presentations of its work in support of the Decade. It noted with some concern that the form of the Conference had not yet been finally agreed, and believed the Conference should be organized by the Decade secretariat on behalf of the United Nations Steering Committee, with co-sponsorship of other bodies represented on that Committee.

36. Mr. VERGA (Italy) observed that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Community. In 1992 the Italian Parliament had adopted a law on national civil protection, whose provisions also covered disaster response, forward planning and prevention, thus according with the aims envisaged by the General Assembly for the International Decade. It focused on the vulnerability of areas and their populations, and aimed at a better understanding of the various regions and the preparation of medium-term plans to reduce vulnerability.

37. The financial aspect was a matter for concern. In that connection, the Italian Senate had before it a bill to establish a national disaster insurance fund. The background to the bill was the *post facto* cost of disasters, amounting since 1947 to roughly 140,000 billion lire—an amount which corresponded in scale to the costs reflected in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/97). With regard to the latter, his delegation awaited the second annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

38. It was clear why Italy had been a sponsor of the Decade since 1987. It was contributing financially, its latest contribution having been 400 million lire, and also in human resources and initiatives, some of which had been adopted in the programmes for the Decade. One such initiative was the publication of *STOP Disasters*, the Decade newsletter, in four languages and 16,000 copies. Others included three projects for risk monitoring and management in real time, the creation of a geographical database to permit the computer preparation of forecasting scenarios, and an emergency communication system integrated with computerized handling of assistance priorities and international response. In addition an international seminar had been organized by the Italian Space Agency with the Decade secretariat and had iden-

tified the space-based technology available for disaster reduction.

39. Mr. HUMMON (United States of America) said that the international community rightly devoted a great deal of attention to natural disasters, with their toll in lives, financial and material losses, and adverse effects on development. Much could be done to promote preparedness, for example through adequate training and the establishment of early warning systems. The Secretary-General's report (E/1993/97) drew attention to the efforts to enhance the capacity for preparedness and response, with the collaboration of WHO, WMO, UNICEF, FAO and other agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and national authorities. The subject was clearly being studied much more closely, with some successes such as the Southern African drought emergency operation in which the countries of the region had collaborated with DHA, WFP and donors in successfully averting a potential tragedy.

40. He wished to make two observations concerning the Secretary-General's report. His delegation noted the further integration of efforts with the work of DHA, whose role must be further stressed, since improved coordination was essential. After a rather difficult beginning, the Department was clearly growing in effectiveness, and should be given strong international support.

41. In respect of the relationship to development, his delegation felt that the report should have contained more reference to the participation of donors, the World Bank and regional banks. It was important to develop the concept of the continuum to sustainable development. Prevention and follow-up were parts of the development process. Many spheres could be cited, such as food production, environmental protection and drought prevention.

42. His delegation expressed its thanks to the Government of Japan for its offer to host the Conference to be held at Yokohama in May 1994.

43. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) regretted the delays in circulating the relevant documentation, at Geneva, in New York and elsewhere, and especially the late arrival of the information annexed to the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/97). The delays might give a false impression of indifferent support for the Decade by delegations. It also deprived delegations of an adequate opportunity to consult their authorities and prepare statements. He also recalled that Morocco was one of the first to sponsor the initial resolutions which had led to the proclamation of the International Decade and the International Framework of Action for the Decade.

44. It was often overlooked that natural disasters could be a part of, or possibly provoke, other calamities, such as a reported earth tremor in central Italy, not far from a nuclear power installation, with the potential risk of a catastrophe on a scale 12 times that of Chernobyl. It was important to bear in mind the consequences of the developed and developing countries' differing response capacities to disasters; a volcanic eruption in the United States in 1983 had caused 57 deaths, while the death-toll from a similar eruption in Colombia the following year had been roughly 23,000.

45. There were no longer grounds for saying that the world could do little or nothing in the face of natural disasters. As the Secretary-General's report showed, advances in science and technology had made possible great advances in averting and mitigating disasters. In Japan, for example, landslides were no longer the threat that they once had been. His delegation strongly supported the idea of developing a disaster-prevention policy, supported *inter alia* by studies at the national level. The aim should be, at least, to develop effective means of forecasting and of alleviating impact. Science and technology should play an important role in concerted international efforts to that end, through measures such as warning systems and standards for hazard-resistant structures.

46. Despite the action taken for the International Decade, under General Assembly resolutions 44/236 and 46/149, as well as in humanitarian assistance under resolution 46/182, a number of regional meetings which had helped to raise the awareness of Governments, and the measures being taken by ACC to promote project integration, much remained to be done.

47. With regard to the 12-point Plan of Action outlined in the annex to the Secretary-General's report, his delegation had four basic observations. First, with regard to national committees, national bodies should be closely associated with international efforts to implement Agenda 21. Every effort should be made to enhance coherence and coordination, bearing in mind the basic goal of sustainable development. Secondly, there must be effective coordination of all bilateral and multilateral aid, bearing in mind the need to reduce, as far as possible, the cost burden on the developing countries, which they could not shoulder alone. Thirdly, his delegation attached the utmost importance to a joint meeting of the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee, with the participation of the relevant development organizations, with a view to aligning means and ends. Fourthly, disaster prevention projects should be automatically eligible for funding from the Global Environmental Facility.

48. It was important to ensure the participation of peoples in all activities in pursuit of the aims of the Decade. Banks and international financial institutions must also play their part.

49. His delegation welcomed the Government of Japan's offer to host the 1994 Conference and would contribute to the deliberations, at the General Assembly's forthcoming session, on preparations for that event. In that connection, the preparatory committee could perhaps consist of two segments: one at government level, open to all Member States of the Organization, to define

rules and procedures; and a substantive segment, in which the Scientific and Technical Committee, outside experts, academic institutes and private-sector bodies could participate. An equitable share of resources should be earmarked for the Conference, whose successful outcome was the responsibility of all. After the disappointing performance recorded hitherto in implementing the Decade, and in view of the aims proclaimed by UNCED it was essential that political will should be combined with firm action, including the provision of adequate resources for scientific and technical measures such as the speedy establishment of an international database in the hands of DHA, to enable the Department to carry out its tasks effectively and make disaster prevention and preparation everywhere a priority issue. His delegation hoped that the 1994 Conference would make an effective contribution towards a safer world in the twenty-first century.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued**)

50. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development" (E/1993/L.28), which he had submitted to the Council at its 38th meeting. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided [resolution 1993/7].

51. The PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that a representative of the Secretariat wished to make an interpretative statement regarding the resolution.

52. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Department for Political Coordination and Sustainable Development), speaking on behalf of the United Nations system and with the full knowledge of the delegations most directly involved in the preparation of the draft resolution, said that the system welcomed the resolution as a reaffirmation of the Council's commitment to the system's role in the economic and social development field.

53. In both the formal and informal discussions delegations had recognized the progress reported to the Council in reaching common understanding on issues such as national execution, the programme approach and the preparation of country strategy notes. The system was fully committed to continuing its efforts to improve the effectiveness of operational activities and recognized the Council's desire to see those processes translated into coordinated results by the system, particularly at the field level. The United Nations system would need to continue to be fully responsive to the particular situation of each recipient country. As requested, the system would report to the Council in 1994 on that aspect.

54. A number of organizations of the system had raised the question of resource implications, particularly in connection with the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 12 of the resolution. They had noted that in a period of contracting resources for operational activities, there was little leeway to contribute resources to country-level coordination beyond currently planned and approved levels.

55. Those concerns had been brought to the attention of delegations involved in the preparation of the draft resolution and the delegations had provided explanations which had greatly facilitated a full understanding of the intention of the paragraphs in question. It was the understanding of the Secretariat and the United Nations system that there was no intention to request the contribution of additional resources to the office of the resident coordinator. The text left it to the organs of the United Nations system to decide the level and type of resources (not necessarily financial) provided to assist the functioning of the resident coordinator system. Those resources would consist in most cases of the active and full involvement of the United Nations organizations concerned in thematic and substantive working groups, and other activities at the country level which formed part of the resident coordinator system.

56. The United Nations system welcomed the attention given to the resource requirements of country-level coordination. The continuing effort to strengthen the resident coordinator system would involve steps to implement the provisions of subparagraphs 39 (*d*) and (*g*) of General Assembly resolution 47/199, widening of the pool of qualified development professionals eligible for appointment as UNDP resident representatives/resident coordinators and enhancing the authority of the resident coordinators. In strengthening the resident coordinator system, full use would be made of the existing resources of the United Nations system at the country level, which together constituted the underpinning of the resident coordinator system.

57. Mr. SLEEUWAGEN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which was a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 and reflected new elements that had arisen since the adoption of the General Assembly resolution.

58. With regard to Mr. Haemmerli's statement, it was the understanding of the members of the Community that nothing in the resolution obliged specialized agencies, funds or programmes to act in a way that was inconsistent with the decisions taken by their governing bodies or with the available level of resources.

59. With respect to the provision of resources mentioned in paragraphs 7 and 12 of the resolution, he noted that such support need not necessarily be financial. In any event, assistance could be provided only where resources were available.

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* Resumed from the 38th meeting.

60. He recognized the importance many delegations attached to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the resolution. However, the effectiveness of implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 could not be judged by the resources devoted to the task by the United Nations system. The key issue was the impact the resources had in the field.

61. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of draft resolution E/1993/L.28.

62. His delegation had expected the Council to take up the item at the beginning of the meeting, but had acquiesced in the request to postpone consideration of the item until the Council had taken up the item on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In that connection, he drew attention to the difficulties changes in the scheduling of items created for delegations when several meetings were being held simultaneously and hoped that efforts would be made in future to adhere to the order of the programme announced in the Journal.

63. The PRESIDENT regretted that the order of the items had had to be changed for reasons beyond his control and said that efforts would be made to avoid the recurrence of such situations in future.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued**):

(*e*) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (*continued**)

64. Mrs. BIRGIN (Australia), introducing draft resolution E/1993/L.32 on behalf of the delegations of Canada, the United States of America and Australia, said that, in the English version, in paragraph 5, a semicolon should be inserted after the word "strategies" and the remainder of the sentence should be deleted. In paragraph 7, the words "been adversely affected by" should be replaced by "decreased as a result of". Lastly, in paragraphs 4, 5, 8 and 9, the word "system" should be inserted after the words "United Nations".

65. The draft resolution recognized the problems some Governments faced in tackling the issues of tobacco consumption and production. Some nations earned significant foreign exchange from tobacco production, which also provided employment opportunities for their people. Other Governments received revenue benefits from taxation on the tobacco industry and on smokers. Consequently, the continued viability of the international tobacco industry or an evaluation of the significance of health issues were mainly matters of economics. Member States needed to weigh the apparent economic benefits of production against the economic cost of tobacco consumption. That could best be achieved through a multisectoral approach to tobacco issues.

66. The effectiveness of demand reduction problems in many developed countries demonstrated that severe economic dislocation might result in developing countries as global tobacco demand decreased if plans were not put into place to deal with supply issues. The illicit drug situation had shown that attempts to control supply were significantly less effective if demand remained high.

67. In the view of the sponsors there would be value in establishing a focal point within the United Nations to consider the multisectoral implications of tobacco consumption and production. Such a focus would provide an opportunity for the variety of issues to be considered and a negotiated strategy responding to concerns from all interests to be developed. The focal point would need to negotiate with relevant international organizations on the full range of socio-economic matters from identification of tobacco-related health and welfare costs to agricultural diversification, trade and employment and adopt appropriate strategies to address those issues.

68. The draft resolution recognized the need for all countries to take due account of the economic issues arising from reduced global demand and, where appropriate and possible, to assist in mitigating the problems.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m

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* Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

41st meeting

Friday, 23 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.41

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued*)

Promotion of press freedom in the world (*continued**)

1. Mr. NATH (Observer for Mauritius) introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of press freedom in the world" (E/1993/L.30). He pointed out that the sole operative paragraph invited the General Assembly to declare 3 May "World Press Freedom Day" and that the representative of UNESCO had explained the reasons for such a declaration at the thirty-first meeting.

2. Mr. PATNAIK (India) proposed that the following words should be added at the end of the last preambular paragraph: "to ensure a free flow of information at the international as well as national levels and its wider and better balanced dissemination, without any obstacle to the freedom of expression". If that amendment was accepted, India would become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

(*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics (*continued**)

3. Mr. KAMAL (Observer for Pakistan) introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation in the field of informatics" (E/1993/L.33) on behalf of its 83 sponsors. He announced that Benin, El Salvador, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Libya, New Zealand, Panama, Portugal and Qatar were also sponsors of the text.

4. The draft resolution was being submitted for the third consecutive year because Member States were aware of the decisive role played by informatics in development and of the need for easy access to the increasing number of databases and information networks in the United Nations system. However, the absence of a focal point in the United Nations Secretariat in New York was holding up progress, as was, perhaps, the inertia of the competent institutions in the matter. Nevertheless, tribute was due to UNITAR and to ITU, which had offered to help permanent missions to familiarize themselves with computer systems.

5. The draft resolution therefore reiterated the priority that States attached to the subject and noted the limited progress made so far. ACC was urged to arrange for the participation of representatives of States in the review of the functioning of ICC and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems. As in previous years, the Council might wish to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

(*d*) Question of a United Nations year for tolerance (*continued**)

6. Mr. CANKOREL (Turkey) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Question of a United Nations year for tolerance" (E/1993/L.31) on behalf of its sponsors, which had been joined by Germany and Pakistan. He pointed out that UNESCO was at the origin of the proposal, which had been supported by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/124. The proposed proclamation would not only coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, but would also stress that the tragedies that were shaping current events in the world mostly stemmed from intolerance.

7. The proposed text essentially encouraged UNESCO to continue with the preparation of a declaration and recommended that the General Assembly should proclaim 1995 the "United Nations Year for Tolerance". The draft resolution had no financial implications for the United Nations programme budget, and its sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

8. Mr. LILLO (Chile), Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Mr. ARELLANO (Mexico), Mr. AZAIEZ (Observer for Tunisia), Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea), Mr. AFETOI (Togo), Mr. NATH (Observer for Mauritius), and Mr. PATNAIK (India) announced that their delegations wished to be added to the list of sponsors.

(*b*) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

9. Mr. LOHIA (Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

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* Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

Countries and Peoples) recalled that the General Assembly had solemnly declared that decolonization should be completed before the end of the century. However, as that date approached, it was becoming clearer that one of the keys to success was economic development. In that connection, small island States were in a special situation, which should not deprive them of their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence. The General Assembly had consistently emphasized the role which United Nations specialized agencies could play in the economic and social development of such States, which were facing handicaps of which the international community was well aware.

10. The Special Committee was pleased to note the efforts made by UNCTAD, a focal point for world action in favour of island developing States. UNCTAD had, *inter alia*, contributed to the Secretary-General's report on the specific problems and needs of island developing countries (A/47/414 and Add.1).

11. In its resolution 47/189, the General Assembly had called for the convening, in April 1994, of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, with a view to adopting plans, programmes and measures which would permit small States to cope with ecological changes. The General Assembly had invited the whole United Nations system to participate in the Conference, and the Special Committee hoped that small island Non-Self-Governing Territories would be authorized to participate fully, not only in the Conference itself, but also in the work of the preparatory committees.

12. Over the past year, the Special Committee had taken a particular interest in the special needs of Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the Caribbean and Pacific. It had organized a seminar at Port Moresby under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. At the seminar, representatives of the territories in question had asked to be given more opportunities to participate in the work of the specialized agencies and had asked for observer status at conferences organized by them. Some specialized agencies had already replied positively.

13. The Non-Self-Governing Territories participating in the seminar had also made a number of other requests. They hoped that international organizations would help them to upgrade their technological infrastructure, to promote local technologies, to prepare a regional programme of cooperation for the management of exclusive economic zones, to organize training in self-sufficiency, and to draw up their development programmes.

14. The Commission on Sustainable Development and UNDP should make a special effort to help their non-governmental organizations to participate in regional meetings. UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank should make resources and expertise available to them. Information programmes should be launched to educate the local populations and tourists in environmental protection, and appropriate attention should be paid to islands vulnerable to natural disasters. Finally, resources should be made available to them to enable them to carry out biodiversity conservation programmes and to participate in regional environmental programmes. More generally, Non-Self-Governing Territories wished to participate fully in regional conventions and programmes that related to their environment and future.

15. At the end of the general debate on the agenda item under consideration, a draft resolution would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. The sponsors of the text, which reflected the concerns and expectations of the Special Committee and of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, had no doubt that it would receive a very broad endorsement.

16. Mr. LUDVIGSEN (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)), introducing the report on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/1993/74), said that the report included information received from relevant United Nations organizations and agencies on the measures which they had taken to implement General Assembly resolution 47/170, in which they were requested to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people. The replies received since the publication of the report would be published in an addendum.

17. In its resolution 43/178, the General Assembly had further charged Habitat with supervising the development of the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people and to report to it, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in that connection. With the help of consultants from within the occupied Palestinian territory and in collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organization and United Nations agencies, Habitat had collected detailed information on the subject. It had thus been possible to identify a number of high-priority technical cooperation projects and to formulate proposals which might be of the greatest interest for socio-economic development and employment generation in the occupied Palestinian territory. On the basis of an initial review, it appeared that some of the projects and proposals had been agreed to by the parties concerned and were being implemented; others must wait for further elaboration and funding. Although modest in comparison with the magnitude of the needs, assistance was therefore being provided to the Palestinian people by United Nations agencies, despite the lack of financial resources and other difficulties.

18. It should also be pointed out that, further to the suggestion made by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/170, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had organized the Seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people, which had been held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 26 to 29 April 1993, with the participation of representatives of the agencies involved in field projects, donor countries, Palestinians and various experts (see E/1993/62 and Corr. 1, annex).

19. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) gave an account of the activities undertaken by FAO in favour of Non-Self-Governing Territories. In the region of Asia and the Pacific, four technical assistance projects relating to root crop development, livestock, fisheries and forestry were being implemented.

20. In Africa, as part of the international campaign against apartheid, FAO had provided assistance to the populations threatened by the policy of the South African Government and to national liberation movements recognized by OAU and the United Nations. Technical assistance had been supplied to members of the Pan Africanist Congress for the implementation of a food production development project which should enable the PAC supporters settled at Masiguri-Kitonga in Tanzania to provide for their food needs. The beneficiaries of the project had received training in agricultural production and management and in the use and maintenance of agricultural equipment supplied under the project.

21. In early 1992, the FAO Investment Centre had participated in a mission organized by the World Bank in South Africa. FAO had been specifically responsible for studying the technology that could be used by small farms, the irrigation potential and the credit and finance systems to which the rural populations had access. The participants in the mission had worked in close collaboration with their counterparts in the African National Congress, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and other governmental or non-governmental institutions; visits had been made to different parts of the country. FAO had also participated in a seminar on socio-economic problems in South Africa and the role of the United Nations system held at Windhoek from 22 to 24 May 1992.

22. In Latin America and the Caribbean, several small Non-Self-Governing Territories had benefited from FAO assistance, which had been supplied to them at the request of UNDP or the secretariat of CARICOM, since the Territories concerned were not members of FAO. A fisheries development project was being implemented in Aruba. Assistance had been supplied to Montserrat under projects for the development of forestry and the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. In the case of the Turks and Caicos Islands, FAO had provided the services of a consultant for an integrated development planning project. In Anguilla and Montserrat, preparatory activities were being carried out under a regional project for the eradication of a species of tick and the strengthening of veterinary services, for which funding still had to be found.

23. Delegations from the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat had participated in several subregional meetings dealing with the draft Caribbean community agreement on cooperation in the development and management of the living resources of the exclusive economic zone, prepared under an FAO-assisted project. Montserrat's participation in the project for the use of video-based communication systems and training in rural development was currently under review by various agencies, including FAO.

24. As far as Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and other small territories in the Caribbean were concerned, FAO had been invited by UNDP from time to time to review the country programme management plans and the country programmes for the fifth cycle.

25. Finally, it should be stated that Puerto Rico, as an associate member of FAO, attended all its conferences and meetings.

26. Mr. KEREM (Observer for Israel) said that in his delegation's opinion the question of assistance to the Palestinian people was really a matter for the General Assembly or the Governing Council of UNDP. Although reports such as the one before the Council (E/1993/74) contributed little to a better understanding of the situation in the territories, they shed light on the considerable amount of United Nations resources wasted in regurgitating an endless list of slanders, half-truths and fanciful allegations.

27. How could anyone be unaware that the Palestinian people needed assistance when it had succeeded in having so many resolutions calling for assistance from the international community adopted by so many organizations? But who had created that need, other than the Palestinian people itself? It must be borne in mind that, following the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein in 1991—an invasion that had been acclaimed by the Palestinians—tens of thousands of Palestinians had been expelled from the Gulf, with a consequent drying-up of their payment transfers to the territories. At the same time, the financial assistance directly or indirectly supplied by the Gulf States, mainly to terrorist movements, but also to other more philanthropic organizations in the territories, had also dried up. Finally, as a result of the Palestinians' support for Saddam Hussein, the markets of Arab countries other than Jordan had been closed and the economic crisis in Jordan had exacerbated the unemployment problem in the region.

28. Under the combined effect of the economic recession and the intensification of acts of violence committed by Islamic fundamentalist factions, the Israeli Government had been forced to impose strict limits on the entry of Palestinian workers into the country. The situation had not been improved by the intifada, which, far from making the region's economy less dependent on Israel as certain militants had hoped, had led only to a restriction of economic activity and the discouragement of potential investors.

29. Nevertheless, the economic stagnation that had characterized the territories up to the end of 1991 had given way, in the course of 1992, to a new pragmatism in which priority was given to economic recovery, as the Director-General of ILO had emphasized in his most recent annual report on the subject. Since the beginning of

1993, new investments had been made in the territories, particularly in small industrial enterprises, and that development had been favoured by the new measures adopted by the civil administration. It was clear that, in order to establish the self-governing authority provided for in the peace process and ultimately to secure coexistence, the gap in income and standards of living between Israel and the territories must be bridged. In 1991, annual per capita income had been $1,250 in Gaza and $2,040 in Judea and Samaria, as against $7,000 in Saudi Arabia and over $19,000 in the United Arab Emirates. However, the 1990 figures for Egypt, Syria and Jordan had been far below those of the territories ($610, $980 and $1,340 respectively). It was therefore clear that the population of the territories had a higher standard of living than that of neighbouring countries and that it wished to catch up, not with Egypt or Syria, but Israel and the Gulf States. In order to improve Israeli-Palestinian relations, the development of the territories must be accelerated on the basis of regional cooperation, the economic aspirations of the population must be satisfied, and political stability based on mutual security must be assured.

30. In 1992, the civil administration had therefore concentrated on reviving the economy, creating jobs and promoting investment, both internal and foreign. Some 90 factories had been established in Gaza and 80 in Judaea and Samaria, and approximately 100 more were planned. New bank and insurance company branches had also been opened, and the regulations governing the import of foreign exchange had been liberalized. However, even if Israel had invested the equivalent of US$ 100 million in the territories over the period, it was clear that it could not do everything and that the international community had a more important role to play, particularly through concerted action between UNDP and the civil administration. It was difficult to see what point there would be in having yet more worthless studies made for political reasons by particular agencies. From now on, the activities in question must be taken over by multilateral working groups established under the peace process in agreement with, in particular, the World Bank, the European Community, the United States of America, Japan and Canada. It was therefore all the more regrettable that no mention was made of the peace process in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/74). In the working groups, which were currently dealing with regional economic development, the environment problem and the water problem, there had been a move away from conceptual discussions towards concrete activities far removed from the current unreal controversies and the preordained resolution to which they would lead. Neither had any mention been made, either in the report or in the debate, of concrete assistance being provided to Palestinians by their Arab brothers, especially in Algeria and Syria, and by Malaysia. It was easier, of course, to rely on the United Nations, where the bill would be paid by the United States of America or some other donor, even if all that was involved was the organization of yet another mission of inquiry or the production of yet another report.

31. In conclusion, a peace process that had started well and was rightly isolated from political controversies was under way. Since the inhabitants of the territories would gain nothing from a sterile debate or a hypocritical resolution, it was better to try to reform the Economic and Social Council and to re-focus aid to the Middle East on a disinterested basis. Political debates would thus be limited to the General Assembly and the bilateral peace negotiations, and Arab countries would be able to associate themselves with the development process.

32. Mrs. JARF (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Palestinian people was suffering from the Israeli occupation in all aspects of economic and social life and was the daily victim of abject violations of its rights in the form of arrests, arbitrary expulsions, confiscations of property, restrictions on freedom of movement and so on. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had therefore done well to organize, in Paris, the United Nations Seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/1993/62 and Corr.1), which had shown that the international community was perfectly aware of the extent of the problem. In the message which he had sent to participants, the Secretary-General had stressed that the international community must play an effective role in promoting the economic and social development of the occupied Palestinian territories, help the Palestinian people to improve its standard of living, and lay the foundations for a just and peaceful future.

33. However, Israel, which had made the Palestinian economy totally dependent on its own economy, was opposed to the provision of any assistance for the economic development of Palestine. Thus the most elementary needs of the Palestinian people could not be satisfied. A severe financial crisis prevailed in the occupied territory and unemployment was rising, particularly among university graduates, as a result of the recent cordoning-off of East Jerusalem and other areas and of the decision to prohibit Palestinians from travelling to their place of work. All that had caused the GNP to fall by 14 per cent. The lack of natural resources and infrastructural shortcomings were also making themselves felt. In the Gaza Strip, in particular, adequate supplies of drinking water still had to be secured.

34. The Israeli authorities should therefore be forced to lift all their restrictions on aid projects for the Palestinian people, to allow the latter to participate in economic decision-making, and to permit it to exercise its sovereignty over its own resources. The objectives of the Palestine Development Programme included the rectification of the distortions in the economy, the creation of jobs, the improvement of housing conditions and of economic and social infrastructures, the promotion of export sectors, and the development of technological capacities through international aid. The Secretary-General should do everything to ensure that the United Nations system's

aid projects could be implemented, through the coordinated action of the various United Nations agencies involved and in agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

35. Mr. MOHAMED (Observer for Palestine) pointed out that the report of the United Nations Seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/1993/62 and Corr.1) should be incorporated into the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/74) and that the mistake made in publishing them separately should be made good.

36. He made a plea in favour of the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip: the territory was very small, overpopulated and short of natural resources, especially water, and even those available had to be shared with Israeli settlers. On the pretext of security, Israel had closed the frontier between its territory and the Gaza Strip. Was it really also for reasons of security that the frontier was closed between Israel and Jordan and between Israel and Egypt? In fact, Israel was seeking to humiliate the Palestinians, to make them give up the intifada, to establish diplomatic relations with the Arab countries of the region without concluding, or even negotiating, a peace treaty. The observer for Israel had just used, before the Council, to which it had presented no new idea, a well-worn vocabulary when speaking of the "inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria", whereas the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs, when addressing the General Assembly, now openly spoke of the "Palestinian people". For its part, the Palestinian people, whose country was Palestine, was quite ready to start real peace negotiations on the basis of international law and of the General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Palestine and other pertinent resolutions of the Security Council.

37. In the view of some, the question of assistance to the Palestinian people ought to be raised directly in the General Assembly. Others maintained that the Council must be able to deal with all matters falling within its economic and social jurisdiction. Israel wished to use UNDP as an intermediary, since UNDP was the only United Nations body which it authorized to act in the occupied territories, excluding all the others which, if they wished to operate in the territories, had to do so under the cloak of UNDP. The Palestinians had every reason to be grateful to UNDP for the action taken in the territories, but all United Nations agencies ought to have free access to the territories without any discrimination. It was difficult to understand why Israel, which proclaimed so loudly its willingness to assist the Palestinians, was opposed to that.

38. Furthermore, the current restructuring of the United Nations system should enable it to assume increasing responsibilities with regard to assistance to the Palestinian people. Any suggestion to the contrary, wherever it came from and even if it was motivated by the best intentions, would meet with the firm opposition of Palestine. He wished to thank publicly those United Nations agencies and those countries which, although they were not mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, were also providing the Palestinians with political, moral and material support which Israel obviously had no interest in seeing materialize.

39. The only real assistance which Israel could give to the Palestinians would be to withdraw its tanks to the frontiers of the territories, to lift all restrictions on trade, and to renounce once and for all statements of the sort that its representative had just made.

40. The Palestinians were so anxious to see peace finally materialize that they were already thinking, less of the assistance which they needed, than of the enormous task of reconstruction and development which awaited them in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. They were already thinking of the moment when the metal of the tanks would be converted into raw materials for peace-time industries, of the moment when all the millions but lately spent on war could be used for development. In that connection, the wishes of the Palestinians corresponded exactly to those of the international community. The international community must put pressure on Israel to lift the siege currently starving the population of the Gaza Strip. Israel must stop stifling that territory, re-open its frontiers, and authorize the gradual resumption of normal economic life. It must also agree to the implementation of the three economic development projects whose execution had been requested by the General Assembly almost 10 years previously in its resolution 39/223.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

42nd meeting

Monday, 26 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.42

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Mrs. OGATA (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) presented her report for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 March 1993 (E/1993/20), a period that had been marked by a proliferation of humanitarian crises and massive movements of refugees and displaced persons, while at the same time the end of the cold war had opened up prospects for a political solution to a number of conflicts. That juxtaposition of opportunities and risks had led UNHCR to adopt a new strategy, combining the traditional activities of protection and assistance with a more innovative approach to the prevention and solution of refugee problems. That new strategy had three facets: prevention, preparedness for emergency situations, and solutions.

2. In Somalia, for instance, UNHCR had carried out a cross-border operation, launching a number of Quick-Impact Projects on both sides of the Kenyan frontier, with the result that the outflow of refugees from Somalia had almost stopped, even creating a propitious climate for the voluntary repatriation of a small number of refugees. It could thus be seen that there was a close link between prevention and durable solutions. It was now to be hoped that the recent deterioration in the situation in Mogadishu would not vitiate hopes for a major repatriation of Somali refugees in northern Kenya. In Europe, the tragedy in the former Yugoslavia had yet again illustrated the importance of prevention and the need to make the human rights machinery of the United Nations more effective, particularly where minority groups were concerned. Thus, UNHCR was seeking to strengthen its cooperation with those bodies and, throughout eastern Europe and the newly independent States, was endeavouring, in cooperation with IOM and the Council of Europe, to intensify programmes in the areas of training, legal advice and institution-building. Refugees must also continue to receive protection through asylum, at least on a temporary basis, and that right must therefore be strengthened, especially in the light of the measures adopted by some States to prevent potential refugees from seeking asylum or to reject them without a proper hearing. Prevention and protection must be matched by preparedness and capacity to respond quickly and effectively whenever a crisis erupted. UNHCR had thus forged partnerships with non-governmental, intergovernmental and governmental organizations, and had even drawn on the military for logistical support. Over the previous 18 months, it had deployed emergency-response teams in some 10 countries: in Kenya, which had received about 400,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia; in Nepal, where there were 80,000 Bhutanese refugees, and in Bangladesh, to which 250,000 people had fled from Myanmar; in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan; in Benin and Ghana, which had received 200,000 refugees from Togo; and in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, where there were refugees from Liberia. The largest of the current emergency programmes concerned some 3.5 million refugees, internally displaced persons and besieged populations in the former Yugoslavia, and particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where UNHCR was leading the joint effort that also involved UNICEF, WHO, WFP and ICRC. The efforts of UNHCR were repeatedly thwarted by the total disregard for humanitarian principles on the part of the parties to the conflict, who prevented access to refugees and manipulated humanitarian action for political ends. UNHCR was determined to continue its work, but it needed the cooperation of the parties on the ground and the unwavering support of the international community. It was also aware that humanitarian action was no substitute for political action, and that only peace could put an end to the senseless bloodshed, the relentless persecution and the odious "ethnic cleansing". As the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina clearly showed, the effectiveness of UNHCR in emergencies was also determined by the prevailing security situation: in many cases, danger arose unexpectedly, and many staff of UNHCR and its partners risked their lives daily, while some had even sacrificed their lives. UNHCR had strengthened its internal resources in the fields of training, coordination and equipment, and was working closely with the United Nations system to improve security.

3. Once the emergency was brought under control, UNHCR searched systematically for durable solutions. The past year had seen some encouraging progress in that regard: more than 1 million refugees had returned from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan; in March 1993, UNHCR had closed the last of the Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand and more

than 360,000 refugees had returned to Cambodia in time to participate in the elections. Over 60,000 Ethiopian refugees had returned from Kenya, while others were about to be returned from the Sudan; more than 100,000 refugees had already returned to Mozambique, and preparations were under way for the large-scale repatriation of about 1.5 million Mozambican refugees. Those preparations were not a simple matter, for it was necessary to ensure the security of those repatriated and to reintegrate them on their return; hence the need for close coordination with the other agencies of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations in order to achieve a continuum from relief to development and avoid new crises. In that connection, the continuing insecurity in Afghanistan aroused fears of failure, while the example of Cambodia showed the positive results that could be achieved through active collaboration between UNHCR and UNDP, which, in Cambodia, was poised to take over where UNHCR had left off, so as to try to meet the longer-term development needs of the returning refugees. Coordination and cooperation were the best means of rationalizing the activities of the United Nations system, and UNHCR was exploiting that formula to the full: its cooperative arrangements with WFP had recently been strengthened. Given the extreme importance it also attached to its partnership with the non-governmental organizations, UNHCR had organized a regional meeting with non-governmental organizations in Caracas at the beginning of July 1993 and was intending to organize other regional meetings, which might culminate in a global conference in Oslo to adopt a concerted plan of action.

4. Mr. VALENZUELA (Spain) said that the UNHCR three-pronged strategy of prevention, preparedness and solutions had already proved fruitful. In the field of prevention, action by UNHCR was essential to avoid the proliferation of crises. With regard to preparedness, UNHCR showed that it could respond to the most testing challenges, while manifestly positive solutions had been found in Central America, in the context of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, and in Cambodia—solutions which should serve as examples in Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. That assessment only served to highlight the need further to enhance horizontal coordination and to take account of the interdependence between the humanitarian, economic, political and security dimensions of complex crises. Consideration must thus be given to the comparative advantage each institution offered, and the various mandates must be clearly defined, so as to avoid duplication and grey areas where the demarcation of responsibilities remained vague. In the field of international protection, Spain unreservedly supported the setting-up by UNHCR of its Working Group on International Protection, and the drafting of a Note on international protection; it also endorsed the publication of Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women, and of an Information Note on refugee children; with regard to the latter, it awaited with interest the updating of the 1988 Guidelines. Spain, which worked actively with UNHCR, had recently adapted its legislation on the right of asylum, in the light of the new needs referred to in the report of UNHCR, participating in the intergovernmental consultations and other international meetings on the question, and had responded favourably to UNHCR calls for temporary protection. Like the High Commissioner for Refugees, Spain was convinced of the need for continuity from humanitarian relief to development, and of the importance of formulating development policies designed to prevent any intensification of migratory flows and population displacements.

5. With regard to the many humanitarian aid programmes being carried out in all regions of the world, Spain would continue to shoulder its responsibilities both at the national level and in the framework of the European Community, within the International Conference on Central American Refugees, for example, or in the former Yugoslavia. In the latter crisis, which was particularly complex, the action of UNHCR, which had been instructed by the Secretary-General to lead a colossal humanitarian effort, was exemplary. Spain once again assured UNHCR of its unwavering support.

6. It was in that spirit that Spain (E/1993/88) had requested the Secretary-General to enlarge the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme so as to enable it to become a member. His delegation requested a favourable recommendation on the subject by the Economic and Social Council, which might ask the General Assembly to provide an additional seat on the Executive Committee so that Spain could be elected to it at the Council's next session.

7. Mr. AL-FAHD (Kuwait) said that the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1993/20) provided an exhaustive inventory of the intense activity of UNHCR, which had not let up for a moment during the previous 18 months. The High Commissioner referred to the Iraqi refugees (ibid., para. 164) who, following the Gulf war, currently found themselves in various countries, among them Kuwait, where UNHCR was seeking durable solutions to the problem in close cooperation with the Government. He wished to assure the Council that that cooperation would be maintained to the satisfaction of all the parties. Monitored by UNHCR, Kuwait had already completed the dismantling of a refugee camp on its frontier in which the situation had been steadily deteriorating. With the assistance of UNHCR and IOM, the Kuwaiti authorities had succeeded in permanently resettling 639 families, a form of definitive solution that would serve as a model for the future. UNHCR had entrusted 358 pending cases to the Kuwaiti authorities.

8. Mr. MANGACHI (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania) said that the proliferation and intensification of the crises facing UNHCR obliged it first and foremost to adopt an innovative and comprehensive approach that went beyond the letter of its mandate. UNHCR had in any case clearly understood that it must meet the needs of the populations affected without re-

gard to their status as refugees, returnees or internally displaced persons. Such an approach would be extremely beneficial to the countries in question, particularly the least developed countries hosting large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in very difficult economic circumstances.

9. However, to enable UNHCR to be as effective as possible, a number of other measures must be taken as a matter of urgency. First, the donors should once again respond to the appeal of UNHCR by increasing their contributions. Given the restrictions imposed on refugees wishing to seek asylum in the developed countries, facilitating repatriation and resettlement in the country of origin would be a good way of defusing the crisis. Secondly, since the response of the donor countries had been uneven and pleas from Eastern Europe had been heeded more than those from other regions which had larger numbers of refugees, it would be necessary to make the donor community more aware of the various crisis situations through the media, and to encourage it to respond in a more equitable manner. Thirdly, while it was necessary to ensure continuity between emergency relief and longer-term development, the Bretton Woods financial institutions and the other development agencies must also coordinate their activities with those of UNHCR and incorporate the development needs of refugees and displaced persons into their own programmes. Fourthly, although the UNHCR mandate did not extend to internally displaced persons, experience showed that their problems and those of refugees were intertwined and that a common approach and solution to those problems were thus needed, especially in the developing countries. Consequently, using the latitude that various General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions conferred on it in the matter, UNHCR had been able to assist such persons. Since the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme favoured initiatives of that type, there might be a case for officially extending its mandate to cover internally displaced persons, in the interests of finding a comprehensive solution to the refugee problem.

10. As could clearly be seen from the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Liberia, Cambodia and South Africa, humanitarian assistance could never be a substitute for political solutions. It was disturbing to learn that more money was being spent on United Nations military operations than on humanitarian assistance, which was the main reason for international involvement. No doubt it was necessary to ensure the security of the affected populations and of the personnel involved in humanitarian activities; but to seek military prowess for its own sake was counterproductive, for the humanitarian dimension of the international involvement became blurred and the parties themselves began to speculate as to the real reasons behind the presence of international forces. Precisely because its mandate was humanitarian and non-political, UNHCR was in a particularly advantageous position to deal with the Governments in question in a neutral manner.

11. In any case, there should be no recourse to complex, risky and costly international solutions until regional possibilities for resolving the conflict had been exhausted. For that reason, his country firmly supported the initiative taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at the twenty-ninth session of OAU, held in Cairo in June 1993, to establish a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution. The international community should support that regional approach to the settlement of disputes.

12. It was in that spirit that the Tanzanian Government had hosted peace negotiations between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front in Arusha. In Burundi, the repatriation of refugees was under way, with the active involvement of UNHCR. Repatriation of Mozambican refugees in Tanzania was also due to commence.

13. Mr. ELKARIB (Observer for the Sudan) said that a glance at the map showed that most refugee problems arose in the developing countries and regions. Consequently, for all its importance, political action remained futile unless it was accompanied by economic initiatives and action to foster development. The new focuses of UNHCR intervention, such as the insistence on voluntary repatriation, were commendable but would come to nothing unless the gap between assistance to returnees and the development needs of the communities concerned was filled.

14. The conference recently held at Geneva to organize assistance to repatriated refugees had not lived up to expectations. The non-governmental organizations and the international institutions should tell the truth, which was that it was necessary to ensure the development of the regions to which the refugees were fleeing. The Sudan, which spoke from experience, noted with concern the development of a new tendency to lump together refugee questions and peace and security problems, and to link humanitarian action and intervention by the Security Council. However, the example of Somalia clearly showed that the refugee problem could not be resolved through military force, particularly if the United Nations and the international institutions became parties to the conflict. As the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna the previous month had concluded, it was violations of human rights in times of armed conflict that were at the root of the most serious refugee flows.

15. The Sudan was a receiving country for refugees. It was a member of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and participated actively in its work. It had been among the first to advocate repatriation and resettlement. It was also among those that were raising the alarm in the face of the disastrous ecological effects of refugee flows, which included drought and desertification. It thus took a close interest in the efforts made by UNHCR to organize compensation for the receiving countries, particularly the least developed among them. The other competent specialized agencies

should also concern themselves with that problem and evaluate the damage. That would be a good starting-point for subsequent compensation of the countries concerned. The Sudan wished to pay tribute to UNHCR for mobilizing the will of States and increasing the awareness of the private and public donors. But, concerned at the deficit UNHCR was likely to face in the years to come, it reiterated the appeal to the donors to honour the promises they had made and increase their contributions.

16. Mr. DOLGOBORODOV (Russian Federation) said he regretted that the events in the former Yugoslavia and the States that had resulted from the disintegration of the Soviet Union had betrayed the hopes raised by the ending of the cold war. In November 1992, realism had induced his country to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to pass legislation to ensure their application in domestic law.

17. In the Russian Federation, the problem of refugees had taken on a new dimension, since it was difficult to draw a distinction between refugees and displaced persons, given the close admixture of populations in the region, as the result of mixed marriages, for instance. The collapse of the Soviet Union had resulted in flows of refugees from and to adjacent countries, placing considerable demands on those countries. The situation merited international action, particularly in the republics of central Asia.

18. While UNHCR had made satisfying efforts, the Russian Federation expected more of it and of the international community. It was very important to prepare an action plan for refugees in the Commonwealth of Independent States. His country was also mindful of the problems of refugees elsewhere, for example in Abkhazia and Georgia, from which it had evacuated 2,000 people. It was also taking action in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Tajikistan, and it was participating in the humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia, where two Russian divisions were deployed.

19. It was in full knowledge of the facts that UNHCR, which by its own admission was passing through the most difficult period in its history, had adopted a new strategy, which would undoubtedly be very effective. But it was necessary to go one step further and draw up an integrated programme of action linking humanitarian action, protection of human rights and peace-making, in a framework of partnership and goodwill, even where the consent of the parties directly involved was lacking. Preventive diplomacy was indispensable—a conclusion also reached by the recent Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, whose findings paralleled those of the report of UNHCR.

20. The Russian Federation was faced with a serious problem that added to the complexity of its situation, namely the problem of the Russian-speakers living beyond its frontiers. Refugee flows must shortly be expected, in Latvia and Estonia for example. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Community were aware of the problem, and were taking an interest in the situation and in the rights of Russian-speakers abroad. There was thus an opportunity to implement a preventive strategy. And as a political solution must be sought, preventive diplomacy was also a means of restoring peace.

21. In his country's view, the efforts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies competent in humanitarian matters should be more closely coordinated and intensified. Intensification should be based, not on broad principles, but on the experience gained by the United Nations, and coordination should be ensured by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. Valuable lessons could be learnt from the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and other regions, from which a case could be made for rethinking the UNHCR mandate. A legal enlargement of that mandate might allow for the evacuation of populations from conflict zones, presupposing the creation of humanitarian corridors, organization of transport and the creation of assembly centres. The trend towards broadening the definition of refugee status should also be continued, for it was clear that UNHCR effectiveness was proportionate to the extent of its powers.

22. Mr. SEMACHKO (Ukraine) said that, more often than not, refugee problems had their origin in regional conflicts. With the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, Europe had made an unexpected contribution to confirming that pattern. Hence the growing importance of the role played by the United Nations and of action by UNHCR. UNHCR had set itself new guidelines and had defined a new, three-pronged strategy which appeared to be well thought out and effective. However, in his country's view, it needed to be supplemented by a protection strategy in the downstream phase, aimed at assisting countries receiving repatriated refugees, and by a preventive strategy in the upstream phase, aimed at eliminating the causes of departure. It was well known that the exodus was sparked off by massive violations of human rights. Those rights must therefore be protected.

23. UNHCR also called for a comprehensive and integrated response, linking humanitarian action and protection of human rights with peace-making and peace-keeping, in the context of a strengthened partnership of all actors concerned. Since that partnership had perhaps not yet proved sufficiently effective, UNHCR had, in a welcome initiative, established cooperation links with the United Nations bodies that dealt with human rights.

24. Ukraine was very familiar with the problem of refugees: it had received those fleeing the ethnic conflicts in its region, in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia. These had totalled some 20,000 in the first seven months of 1992. Honouring its international obligations, it was endeavouring to assist them. Thus, a presidential decree of March 1992 required the local authorities to receive refugees from the Republic of Moldova, also confirming their status. Moreover, the

Ukrainian Parliament was in the process of drafting a new definition of the status of those migrants. More recently, in the spring of 1993 the Government had set up a Ministry of Migration. Ukraine also had observer status with IOM and was contemplating becoming a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Together with UNHCR, WHO and ICRC, it had recently organized a seminar on the subject in Kiev. It could thus be seen that Ukraine was endeavouring to take action commensurate with the resources at its disposal.

25. But it was faced with another problem that should be of concern to the international community. It had inherited a problem of populations deported during the 1930s and 1950s: Germans, Greeks, Bulgarians, and especially Crimean Tartars. His Government had set up an assistance fund and an official commission to deal with the latter population. As a result, 180,000 Crimean Tartars had returned to Ukraine in 1993. The enormous problems in the areas of housing, employment, schooling and public health posed by such an influx could well be imagined. However, Ukraine had not closed its doors to them; it would do even more for them if its resources so allowed.

26. Tackling that grave problem single-handed, Ukraine counted on the international community to assist it in implementing the solutions referred to in the UNHCR report (E/1993/20): voluntary repatriation, local settlement and resettlement. In June 1992, Parliament had adopted a National Minorities Act guaranteeing all citizens equality before the law. That policy reflected the principles that guided UNHCR: prevention of refugee flows and reduction of their effects.

27. Mr. MUSA (Nigeria) said that 90 per cent of the world's refugees were now to be found in developing countries, mainly in Africa. The link between economic factors and the refugee phenomenon was thus too well known to need demonstrating. Economic difficulties, and particularly the debt burden, contributed to political instability and sparked off crises and conflicts that boosted refugee flows. Violations of human rights were another factor which drove individuals to flee their countries in many regions of the world. It was thus clear that, without determined action on the part of the international community to combat poverty and underdevelopment and to impose genuine respect for human rights in all countries, the search for durable solutions to the refugee problem would remain futile. Similarly, it was not enough to provide food aid to refugees and displaced persons in countries at war; what they needed above all else was peace and security.

28. His delegation noted with satisfaction the efforts made by UNHCR to provide international protection for refugees, a process which involved ensuring application of the principles of humanitarian law and respect for the fundamental rights of refugees. The physical security of refugees must be ensured at all stages of the process, including the phase of settlement in the receiving country. While welcoming the fact that many countries had remained faithful to a generous asylum policy, his delegation expressed concern at the recorded violations of the principle of *non-refoulement*.

29. Adequate funding was indispensable if UNHCR was to fulfil its mandate. Chapter IV of the report (E/1993/20), which dealt with the financial position of UNHCR, deserved serious attention. The considerable increase in the number of refugees called for a corresponding increase in UNHCR resources, together with rigorous management of the funds allocated to it.

30. While the question was one that did not fall directly within the UNHCR mandate, particular attention should be accorded to the problem of internally displaced persons, a problem that assumed particularly serious proportions in Africa and the former Yugoslavia. Thought should be given to ways of providing assistance and protection to those persons, so that they did not swell the ranks of refugees in other countries.

31. Since any local or regional conflict now had repercussions at the world level, preventive diplomacy and the establishment of early warning systems must be essential components of any action taken to limit refugee flows.

32. Ms. MIYOSHI (Japan) stressed the importance attached by her country to the activities of UNHCR, to which Japan was now the second largest donor, its contributions having exceeded $100 million in both 1991 and 1992. The UNHCR budget was expected to exceed $1.4 billion in 1993. Given the size of that sum, the donor countries—which were themselves often faced with financial difficulties—were entitled to expect the greatest possible transparency and rigour in the management of UNHCR resources. In that regard, continued application of the administrative reform begun in 1990 was crucial. UNHCR must not fail to review its activities in order to make the necessary adjustments, even in the course of its financial year.

33. It was becoming more and more apparent that preventive measures were the best way of reducing the number of refugees. Her delegation welcomed the High Commissioner's efforts in that direction, for example, in the former Soviet Union. Voluntary repatriation was another durable solution. Encouraging progress had been made in that regard under the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees, to which the Japanese Government had contributed $15 million in July 1993. It had also contributed $10 million to UNHCR activities in the former Yugoslavia, and the same amount to the programmes for Africa. It was to be hoped that the repatriation of refugees to the former Yugoslavia, Mozambique and other places would go ahead smoothly.

34. If the root causes of the problems that resulted in recurring crises and emergencies were to be addressed, humanitarian assistance must be linked more closely to the long-term development effort. In that regard, the De-

partment of Humanitarian Affairs should play a pivotal role in establishing the continuum from emergency relief to development, and the international agencies involved in development assistance should intervene at an earlier stage in order to ensure that continuity.

35. Mrs. FOSTIER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, reaffirmed the Community's support for the activity of the High Commissioner and for the strategy set forth in her report (E/1993/20).

36. Mr. MOHAMMED (Observer for Iraq) said that the three-pronged strategy set out in the report of the High Commissioner (E/1993/20) could not fail to be supported by the international community and must be applied by all countries that genuinely wished to solve the refugee problem. In Iraq, UNHCR had been carrying out effective action in aid of refugees for a long time, with the assistance of the Iraqi authorities. It was therefore surprising to read in the report (ibid., paras. 58 and 165) that UNHCR had been unable to obtain "appropriate safeguards" for the repatriation of Iraqi citizens who were refugees in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. It was not clear what safeguards were referred to, particularly since it was also stated in the report that a large number of Iraqi refugees had been able to return to their country without hindrance. He emphasized that none of the Iraqi refugees who had returned to Iraq had been harassed.

37. The report stated that durable solutions to the problem of the Iraqi refugees were being sought. The only obstacles preventing those refugees from returning to their country were economic in nature and due to the continued embargo on Iraq, which meant that the country was effectively under siege. The only durable solution to the problem of the refugees was the lifting of the embargo. That was the objective UNHCR should endeavour to achieve, so as to enable all Iraqi refugees to return to Iraq and live there in peace and dignity.

38. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) pointed out that, contrary to what was stated in the report of the High Commissioner regarding the Western Sahara repatriation programme (E/1993/20, para. 170), in its resolution 809 (1993) the Security Council had never requested the Secretary-General to engage in negotiations, but simply to use his good offices with a view to achieving a settlement of the problem. There was thus no call to use the word "negotiations" in the report. His delegation requested that account should be taken of its comments in future reports of UNHCR.

39. Mrs. OGATA (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked delegations for their statements in support of her personal action and of the overall strategy of UNHCR, which had been very widely endorsed. Several delegations had stressed the importance of securing application of the principles of humanitarian law; UNHCR was determined to act to that end. While pointing out that Spain's request for membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme was a matter for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, she welcomed the request as an expression of Spain's interest in the activities of UNHCR.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued*):

(*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies (*continued**)

40. Mr. TIRUMURTI (India), introducing a draft decision entitled "Reports of the coordination bodies considered by the Economic and Social Council" (E/1993/L.35), said that it was essentially based on paragraphs 42, 45 and 46 of the report of the Committee on Programme and Coordination (A/48/16, part I). In the draft decision, the Council reiterated the role played by CPC in coordination, welcomed the efforts made by the Secretary-General to streamline the subsidiary machinery of ACC, and stressed that the activities carried out at a system-wide level in the field of science and technology for development and new and renewable sources of energy should continue to be coordinated by the new subsidiary machinery. It was to be hoped that the draft decision would be adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Non-governmental organizations (*continued***)

41. Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada), introducing a draft resolution entitled "Review of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations" (E/1993/L.34) on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, said that the text, which represented a third draft, was the outcome of a series of consultations during which the sponsors had endeavoured to take full account of the legitimate aspirations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Two basic principles had guided its drafting: preservation of the prerogatives of the Council, which had the right to review the provisions it had itself adopted 25 years previously, and the need for greater openness *vis-à-vis* organizations representing society in the multilateral system.

42. There was no need to exaggerate the scope of the draft resolution, which in no way prejudiced the results of the study to be undertaken and confined itself to setting up a procedure, in strict accordance with Council decision 1993/214. He was thus surprised that some members of the Group of 77 wished to refer the entire matter back to the General Assembly. Quite apart from the loss of time that would entail, such a step would be

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* Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

** Resumed from the 34th meeting.

contrary to the main thrust of the draft resolution, which was to confer more power on the Council.

43. In any case, the disagreements concerned five minor amendments which in no way altered the spirit of the original text. It was to be hoped that good sense would prevail and that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, so that the review provided for could begin without delay.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

43rd meeting

Tuesday, 27 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.43

1. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom) noted that the Council was called upon to take action on a number of texts whose financial implications for the 1994-1995 biennium had not been evaluated. His country would therefore reserve its position on those texts pending their consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. It also reserved the right to make specific statements on certain of them.

2. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that, in the absence of a full statement of financial implications regarding a number of the draft resolutions and decisions submitted to the Council's consideration, his delegation's position on them was without prejudice to the position which it might adopt at the General Assembly once the financial implications of those proposals for the 1994-1995 biennium were known.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Social Committee
(E/1993/104)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution concerning a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination which was recommended for adoption in paragraph 10 of the Social Committee's report.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/8].

4. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus because it subscribed to the overall objectives of the third decade. Nevertheless, it believed that the draft programme of action for the third decade should focus on specific proposals essentially relating to prevention, such as pilot projects for the settlement of conflicts and the teaching of racial, religious and ethnic tolerance in all countries. Moreover, while the activities envisaged for South Africa under the programme of action could certainly contribute to prevention, it was important for the programme to be balanced and to provide aid to all regions suffering from discrimination.

5. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of item 17 of its agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 19

Advancement of women

Report of the Social Committee
(E/1993/105)

6. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the nine draft resolutions and three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Social Committee. The texts of draft resolutions I to VII and draft decisions I and II were contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-seventh session (E/1993/27 and Corr.1, chap. I, sects. A and B).

Draft resolutions I to VI were adopted [resolutions 1993/9 to 1993/14].

7. The PRESIDENT noted that draft resolution VII, entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian

women'' had been adopted by the Social Committee by a roll-call vote of 31 to 1, with 11 abstentions. He understood that the Council also wished to take a roll-call vote on the matter.

The Syrian Arab Republic, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Guinea, India, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 32 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions [resolution 1993/15].[1]

8. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that, although his country remained concerned over the human rights situation in the occupied territories, it could not subscribe to the numerous partial assertions contained in the resolution adopted. The United States of America, which had therefore voted against that text in the Social Committee and in the plenary, urged the international community to abandon all false rhetoric and support the peace process aimed at settling the conflict through direct negotiations between the parties.

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its consideration to draft resolutions VIII and IX, the texts of which were contained in the Social Committee's report (E/1993/105, para. 39).

Draft resolution VIII was adopted [resolution 1993/16].

10. Mrs. FENG Cui (China) said that her delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution IX concerning the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Draft resolution IX was adopted [resolution 1993/17].

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions I to III.

Draft decisions I to III were adopted [decisions 1993/233 to 1993/235].

12. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (E/1993/76) and on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1993/51) and to endorse the recommendations contained therein.

It was so decided [decision 1993/236].

13. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of item 19 of its agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Social development

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/1993/106 and Add.1)

14. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the report of the Social Committee on the question of social development. In paragraphs 53 and 54 of its report, the Committee recommended 17 draft resolutions and 8 draft decisions for adoption by the Council. The texts of draft resolutions I, II and IV to VIII were contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-third session (E/1993/24, chap. I, sect. A); the texts of draft resolutions IX to XIV and XVI in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its second session (E/1993/32, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolutions I to VI and IX); and the text of draft resolution XVII in the addendum to the report of the Social Committee (E/1993/106/Add.1, draft resolution VII). The texts of draft decisions I and II were contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-third session (E/1993/24, chap. I, sect. B) and those of decisions V to VII were contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its second session (E/1993/32, chap. I, sect. B).

Draft resolutions I to XVII were adopted [resolutions 1993/18 to 1993/34].

15. Mrs. FENG Cui (China) said that, while appreciating the spirit of consensus that had made it possible to adopt draft resolution XVII on a United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, as proposed by the Social Committee (see E/1993/106/Add.1, draft resolution VII), her delegation remained convinced that United Nations bodies should not go beyond their sphere of competence and exceed their terms of reference. In that connection, the draft resolution initially proposed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see E/1993/32, draft resolution VII) contained a reference to the organization of peace-keeping missions, a matter which came exclusively within the purview of the Security Council.

16. Mrs. FERRIOL ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba), supported by Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic), agreed that United Nations bodies should confine themselves to the

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[1] The delegation of Turkey subsequently informed the Secretariat that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution VII.

mandate conferred on them by the Charter of the United Nations and by the various resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In particular, it was inappropriate to establish a link between the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and peace-keeping operations, which were exclusively a matter for the Security Council.

17. Mrs. LE FRAPER DU HELLEN (France) noted that, in part II, paragraph 6, of the French version of the text just adopted, the Secretary-General was requested to develop "*cours d'initiation*" on United Nations norms and guidelines in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, whereas the text originally proposed had referred to "*cours élémentaires*".

18. Mr. ZMEEVSKY (Russian Federation) said that it would be desirable to align the overall Russian text of the draft resolution with the English original. In the penultimate line of part II, paragraph 6, in particular, it would be appropriate to refer to peace-keeping and emergency mission "personnel".

Draft decisions I to VII were adopted [decisions 1993/237 to 1993/243].

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of social development (E/1993/106/Add.1, para. 10).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/244].

20. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had completed consideration of item 20 of its agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 21

Narcotic drugs

Report of the Social Committee (E/1993/107)

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions I to IX (E/1993/107, para. 31, and report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-sixth session, E/1993/29/Rev.1, part one, chap. I, sect. A).

Draft resolutions I to IX were adopted [resolutions 1993/35 to 1993/43].

22. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions I to VII (E/1993/107, para. 32 for draft decisions III and VII; report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-sixth session, E/1993/29/Rev.1, part one, chap. I, sect. B for draft decisions I, II and IV to VI).

Draft decisions I and II were adopted [decisions 1993/245 and 1993/246].

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its attention to draft decision III, entitled "Venue of the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean" (E/1993/107, para. 32).

24. Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) stated that, on the proposal of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, it had been decided that the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies would be held in the Dominican Republic in 1993 and that the Seventh Meeting would take place in Cuba in 1994. The Economic and Social Council was requested to endorse that proposal.

25. Mrs. BONETTI HERRERA (Observer for the Dominican Republic) said that the Dominican Republic would be very honoured to host the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. She also wished to thank the Cuban delegation for agreeing that the meeting scheduled for Cuba would take place only in 1994.

26. Mrs. FERRIOL ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba) thanked the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries for choosing Cuba as the venue for the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in 1994.

Draft decision III was adopted [decision 1993/247].

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision IV, entitled "Reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs" (E/1993/29/Rev.1, part one, chap. I, sect. B).

Draft decision IV was adopted [decision 1993/248].

28. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the adoption of draft decision IV which, in its view, entailed needless expense in providing for a reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs solely for the purpose of adopting the programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium.

29. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions V, VI (E/1993/29/Rev.1, part one, chap. I, sect. B) and VII (E/1993/107, para. 32).

Draft decisions V, VI and VII were adopted [decisions 1993/249 to 1993/251].

30. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting that of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/1993/94, annex) on the administrative arrangements to ensure the full technical independence of the International Narcotics Control Board and endorse the recommendations contained therein, and also that it should

take note of the summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1992 (E/1993/45).

It was so decided [decision 1993/252].

31. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had completed consideration of item 21 of its agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued*):

(*b*) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued)**

32. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" (E/1993/L.37). The draft resolution sought once again to obtain increased assistance from United Nations organizations for the purpose of promoting the economic and social development of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The text was similar to the one adopted by the Council at its 1992 session (resolution E/1992/59), but account had been taken, in the eighth preambular paragraph and in paragraph 8, of General Assembly resolution 47/189 on the convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States and, in the sixth preambular paragraph and paragraph 13, of General Assembly resolution 47/116 A on the question of apartheid. On behalf of the sponsors, who very much hoped that they would be joined by other delegations, he invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

33. Mrs. FENG Cui (China) and Mr. SILVA (Angola) said that their delegations wished to become sponsors of draft resolution E/1993/L.37.

34. Mr. GWAM (Nigeria), Mr. LIMON (Suriname) and Mrs. HENRY-PLACIDE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that an asterisk had mistakenly been placed after the names of their countries in the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/1993/L.37: in fact, those countries were not observers, but full members of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Sustainable development (*continued)**

35. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), introducing a revised version of the draft decision entitled "Sustainable development" (E/1993/L.36/Rev.1), said that the clarity and simplicity of the text should enable it to be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

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* Resumed from the 41st meeting.

* Resumed from the 37th meeting.

44th meeting

Wednesday, 28 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.44

AGENDA ITEM 18

Human rights questions

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE
(E/1993/108)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the five draft resolutions recommended for adoption in paragraph 98 of the Social Committee's report. The texts of draft resolutions I to IV were contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-ninth session (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5, chap. I, sect. A). The text of draft resolution V appeared in the Social Committee's report (E/1993/108, para. 98).

Draft resolutions I to V were adopted [resolutions 1993/44 to 1993/48].

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions submitted to it for adoption by the Social Committee. The texts of draft decisions 1 to 43 were contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5, chap. I, sect. B), those of draft decisions I and II were contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its seventh session (E/1993/22, chap. I) and that of another draft decision I was contained in document E/1993/L.23. The texts of draft decisions XLVI to XLIX were contained in the Social Committee's report (E/1993/108, para. 99).

3. He invited the Council to begin by taking action on draft decision 1, entitled "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine". The Social Committee had adopted that draft decision by a roll-call vote of 22 to 11, with 10 abstentions. He understood that the Council also wished to take a roll-call vote on the matter.

Spain, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Guinea, India, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey.

Against: Australia, Belarus, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Spain, Ukraine.

Draft decision 1 was adopted by 26 votes to 12, with 8 abstentions [decision 1993/253].

4. Mrs. FOSTIER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that they had been unable to support draft decision I, which provided for the appointment of a special rapporteur to investigate violations of human rights in the occupied territories. It was to be feared that that new mechanism would duplicate existing United Nations machinery. Such overlapping would be costly for the Centre for Human Rights. Furthermore, it was hard to see why the mandate of that rapporteur, unlike the mandate of other special rapporteurs appointed by the Commission on Human Rights, was not limited in time. The European Community earnestly hoped that a dialogue would be established between the Special Rapporteur and the existing mechanisms, with a view to rationalizing their respective activities.

5. Mr. KESSEL (Canada) associated himself with the comments made by the representative of Belgium.

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 2, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia", the programme budget implications of which were set out in document E/1993/L.29.

Draft decision 2 was adopted [decision 1993/254].

7. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's support for draft decision 2 was based particularly on the fact that, in paragraph 53 of document E/1993/L.29, the Secretariat referred to the possibility of making savings by transferring part of the resources previously allocated to UNTAC to the office of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia.

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions 3 to 7.

Draft decisions 3 to 7 were adopted [decisions 1993/255 to 1993/259].

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 8, entitled "The right to development", which the Social Committee had adopted by a roll-call vote of 38 to 1, with 6 abstentions. He understood that the Council also wished to take a roll-call vote on the matter.

India, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Guinea, India, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft decision 8 was adopted by 44 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions [decision 1993/260].

10. Mr. BAIER (Austria) said that, despite having abstained in the vote on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/22, his delegation had voted in favour of draft decision 8 because of the results of the World Conference on Human Rights and because Austria had consistently supported the concept of the right to development as set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session. However, it wished to reiterate its reservations regarding paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of resolution 1993/22.

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[1] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

11. Mr. KESSEL (Canada) said that his delegation had felt obliged to abstain because the draft decision contained elements which, in its view, were not calculated to promote a consensus on the issue. The usefulness of establishing a working group was particularly questionable, since a similar measure taken several years previously had been inconclusive. Canada nevertheless attached great importance to the links between human rights and development and was pleased that it had been possible to reach a consensus on that point in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23) adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights.

12. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against draft decision 8 because it disagreed with the wording in paragraph 3 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/22 to the effect that the international macro-economic situation was characterized by a "widening gap between the North and the South, the rich and the poor". His delegation, which had joined the consensus on the final Vienna Declaration, emphasized that the linkage between democracy, human rights and economic development implied the right to development for individuals in a given State. Moreover, it did not believe that a working group was an appropriate mechanism for dealing with that issue.

13. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote, essentially for financial reasons. While welcoming the consensus which had made it possible to adopt the Vienna Declaration, his delegation continued to believe that there was no necessity to establish a working group. The United Kingdom attached considerable importance to the links between human rights and development, as demonstrated by the support given by its aid programmes to national and international efforts to encourage socio-economic development. It nevertheless considered that it was primarily for States to promote development, while at the same time seeing to the application of all the individual rights laid down in the two international covenants. That was the only way to ensure that the individual was truly the beneficiary of the development process, in conformity with the objective proclaimed at the World Conference on Human Rights.

14. Mr. ASAHI (Japan) recalled that his delegation had shown the utmost flexibility on the issue of the right to development at the World Conference on Human Rights. However, the draft decision adopted by the Commission on Human Rights approached the question from a different angle. In the interest of consistency, his delegation, which had abstained in the vote on that matter at the Commission's latest session, had also decided to abstain in the vote on draft decision 8.

15. The PRESIDENT said that draft decision 9, entitled "Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities", did not require any action by the Council. He invited the Council to take action on draft decisions 10 to 20.

Draft decisions 10 to 20 were adopted [decisions 1993/261 to 1993/271].

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 21, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan", the programme budget implications of which were set out in document E/1993/L.29.

Draft decision 21 was adopted [decision 1993/272].

17. Mrs. FENG Cui (China), Ms. RAMLI (Malaysia) and Mrs. FERRIOL ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba) said that their delegations had voted against that draft decision in the Commission on Human Rights and would have voted against it again in the Council had it been put to the vote.

18. The PRESIDENT said that draft decision 22, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran", had been adopted by the Social Committee by a roll-call vote of 24 to 4, with 14 abstentions. The Council might also wish to take a roll-call vote on the matter.

Romania, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Guinea, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Malaysia, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Angola, Bhutan, Colombia, India, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine.

Draft decision 22 was adopted by 26 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions [decision 1993/273].

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 23, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cuba", the programme budget implications of which were set out in document E/1993/L.41. Bearing in mind the fact that the Social Committee had adopted that text by 24 votes to 3, with 16 abstentions, the Council might also wish to proceed to a roll-call vote.

Morocco, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: China, Cuba, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Bahamas, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine.

Draft decision 23 was adopted by 24 votes to 3, with 19 abstentions [decision 1993/274].

Draft decisions 24 to 27 were adopted [decisions 1993/275 to 1993/278].

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decision 28, entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq", the programme budget implications of which were set out in document E/1993/L.29.

21. Mr. HUSSAIN (Observer for Iraq) said that his delegation wished to express its regret, as it had already done in the Social Committee, at a draft decision which politicized the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, undermined the principles of international law and created a dangerous precedent by providing for human rights monitors to be sent to Iraq. That constituted flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. It should be emphasized that, unlike other special rapporteurs appointed to consider the human rights situation in a particular country, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iraq had not been deliberately hampered in the performance of his task by the State concerned.

22. It was paradoxical that certain States were quick to speak of human rights violations in Iraq while paying scant attention to the sufferings of the Iraqi population, which in particular was deprived of the right to adequate food and, consequently, of the right to life. By agreeing to send human rights monitors to Iraq, the Council would be contravening basic human rights principles and seeking to undermine the very foundations of a State. The proposed decision constituted a return to imperialist hegemony in that it reflected an extremely partial viewpoint and created an unfortunate precedent that could be invoked in the future against other countries which also refused to bow to the diktats of the mighty. Those countries which supported the proposal also showed scant concern over the human rights situation in other parts of the region and in particular in Lebanon, which was currently the victim of barbarous aggression.

Draft decision 28 was adopted [decision 1993/279].

23. Mrs. JARF (Syrian Arab Republic) recalled that, when the Commission on Human Rights had adopted the draft decision concerning the human rights situation in Iraq on 10 March 1993, her delegation had deplored the partiality of a text inspired by ethnic and religious considerations. Sending human rights monitors to a Member State constituted flagrant interference in the internal affairs of that State, created an unfortunate precedent in the United Nations system and contravened the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

24. Ms. SABHARWAL (India) said that human rights problems were primarily the responsibility of States. While seeing many positive elements in the draft decision just adopted, her delegation believed—as it had already stated in the Social Committee—that it was injudicious to send human rights monitors to Iraq. If the text had been put to the vote, India would have voted against it.

Draft decision 29 was adopted [decision 1993/280].

25. The PRESIDENT said that the programme budget implications of draft decisions 30 to 32 were set out in document E/1993/L.29.

Draft decisions 30 to 32 were adopted [decisions 1993/281 to 1993/283].

26. The PRESIDENT informed members of the Council that consideration of draft decision 33, entitled "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights", had been postponed at the request of certain delegations. He therefore drew the Council's attention to draft decision 34, entitled "Human rights in El Salvador".

27. Mr. MENDOZA (Observer for El Salvador) pointed out an error in the Spanish text of the draft decision, as contained in paragraph 65 of the Social Committee's report. In the fifth line of that text, the word "*solución*" should read "*evolución*".

28. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary to the Council) said that the error would be corrected.

Draft decision 34 was adopted [decision 1993/284].

29. The PRESIDENT noted that the programme budget implications of draft decision 35 were set out in document E/1993/L.29.

Draft decisions 35 to 37 were adopted [decisions 1993/285 to 1993/287].

30. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft decision 38, entitled "Human rights dimensions of population transfer, including the implantation of settlers and settlements". That draft decision had been adopted by the Social Committee by a roll-call vote of 41 to 1, with 1 abstention, and therefore the Council might also wish to proceed to a roll-call vote.

Bahamas, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft decision 38 was adopted by 48 votes to 1 [decision 1993/288].

31. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote in the Social Committee in order to demonstrate its concern over the proliferation of special rapporteurs. In the plenary, it had felt able to vote in favour of the draft decision.

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions 39 to 43.

Draft decisions 39 to 43 were adopted [decisions 1993/289 to 1993/293].

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision I, entitled "Technical assistance to Panama in implementing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (E/1993/22, chap. I).

34. Ms. AMEGLIO (Observer for Panama) said that her Government was grateful to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for its offer of services, particularly in the housing sector. However, since the Committee's consideration of Panama's report had been tainted with partiality and irregularity, as had been pointed out by the Permanent Mission of Panama at Geneva in notes addressed to the Committee which to date had gone unanswered, it was difficult for her Government to accept an offer which seemed to be essentially motivated by a desire to verify the accuracy of the information which it had communicated in its additional report (E/1989/5/Add.8). Panama nevertheless believed that it would be useful to receive assistance from housing experts, but it wished to reserve its right to decline the Committee's offer in the way it was formulated for adoption by the Council and hoped that the Council would take account of its position.

Draft decision I was adopted [decision 1993/294].

35. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decisions II (E/1993/22, chap. I), I (E/1993/L.23) and XLVI and XLVII (E/1993/108, para. 99).

The four draft decisions were adopted [decisions 1993/295 to 1993/298].

Draft decisions XLVIII and XLIX (E/1993/108, para. 99)

36. Mrs. FOSTIER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, recalled that an official from the Centre for Human Rights had informed the Social Committee of the financial problems faced by the Centre in implementing resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights. At that time, the spokesman for the European Community had stressed the need to devote a greater share of the Organization's regular budget resources to United Nations human rights activities. The World Conference on Human Rights had expressed a similar wish. It was also important for special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission to have the necessary means to discharge their mandate fully and within the appointed time. Lastly, while it was true that the Secretariat had made available substantial resources for 1993, they covered only part of requirements, and the European Community therefore called upon the Secretary-General, within the limits of the budget, to take priority measures to ensure that the essential human and financial resources were allotted to activities involving the promotion and protection of human rights.

Draft decisions XLVIII and XLIX were adopted [decisions 1993/299 and 1993/300].

AGENDA ITEM 6

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (*continued**):

(*a*) Special programme of economic assistance (*continued**)

ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

37. Mrs. JARF (Syrian Arab Republic) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Yemen" (E/1993/L.38), of which the Japanese delegation had become a sponsor.

38. She wished to make a number of amendments to the operative part of the draft resolution. Paragraph 1 should be amended to read:

> "1. *Encourages* the international community to continue to respond actively to the needs of Yemen and requests donor States to continue to provide assistance on a bilateral and multilateral basis, with a view to enabling the Republic of Yemen to address the emergency situation."

Paragraph 2 should be amended to read:

> "2. *Calls upon* Member States and all organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations and financial institutions to provide assistance to the Government of Yemen in its reconstruction and development efforts."

Paragraph 3 should be amended to read:

> "3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts and requests him to continue to

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* Resumed from the 38th meeting.

coordinate the activities of United Nations organizations so as to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to Yemen, with a view to assisting Yemen in the mobilization of its own resources".

39. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), Ms. RAMLI (Malaysia) and Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) said that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEBANON

40. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), introducing a draft resolution entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon" (E/1993/L.40), announced that the Czech Republic and Poland had joined the sponsors. He further indicated that, in the French text of the third preambular paragraph, the word "*catastrophique*" should be replaced by the word "*sévère*". The sponsors drew the international community's attention to the very bad situation in Lebanon, whose infrastructure had been destroyed and whose rate of inflation was particularly high, in support of the country's claim to increased assistance from the entire United Nations system. He very much hoped that the draft resolution would be the subject of an active consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*continued**)

41. Mr. LOS ARCOS (Spain) introduced the draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (E/1993/L.39). As a country which, in recent years, had taken an increasingly active interest in refugees and displaced persons within the framework of the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Spain wished to become a member of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme and had sent the Secretary-General a note verbale to that effect (E/1993/88). Spain had already done much to seek lasting solutions to the refugee problem, setting out at the national level to formulate legislation which promoted, in particular, the right of asylum and temporary protection, and considered it useful to be able to pursue its efforts within the Executive Committee itself. It therefore proposed that the Council should recommend that the General Assembly should enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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* Resumed from the 42nd meeting.

45th meeting

Thursday, 29 July 1993, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.45

AGENDA ITEM 15

Development and international economic cooperation

(*a*) Trade and development
(*b*) Food and agricultural development
(*e*) Natural resources

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/1993/110)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the two draft decisions recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraphs 10 and 48 of its report.

The draft decisions were adopted [decisions 1993/301 and 1993/302].

2. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the text concerning the future work of the Committee on Natural Resources which the Council had just adopted in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 48 in the report of the Economic Committee had been the subject of lengthy negotiations

on the Committee's first report and the documentation for its future sessions.

3. The Community recognized the importance of the Committee's work and considered that the current formula was the best. As far as possible, the Committee should endeavour to avoid duplication in documentation. It should also place its work in the context of Agenda 21. Efficient coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development was indispensable in that regard. With that in mind, the member States of the Community had approved the Committee's new calendar of meetings and the provisional agenda for its second session.

(*d*) Transnational corporations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/111)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the role of the Commission on Transnational Corporations" and draft decisions I, II and III entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations", "Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as related to transnational corporations" and "Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its nineteenth session", recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraphs 22 and 23 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/49].

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted [decisions 1993/304 to 1993/306].

5. Mrs. KELLY (Australia), referring to draft decision I, welcomed the fact that negotiations on the draft code of conduct for transnational corporations had been set aside. Australia supported the solution afforded by the guidelines for global business. However, in view of the World Bank guidelines on the treatment of foreign investment, Australia did not believe that the proposed guidelines for global business needed to concern themselves with foreign direct investment or related issues. Any future participation by Australia as an observer at the twentieth session of the Commission would be largely confined to issues not concerned with foreign direct investment.

(*j*) Transport of dangerous goods

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraph 27 of its report.

7. Mr. GABILONDO (Argentina) said that his country, which had observer status with the Committee of Experts, intended to request full membership and hoped that its application would be favourably received.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/50].

(*l*) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

8. The President invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled "Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries" recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee on paragraph 29 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/307].

(*k*) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/113)

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled "Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of effective mobilization and integration of women in development" recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/308].

(*m*) Prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution entitled "Coordination of United Nations activities related to HIV/AIDS" recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

11. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) supported the proposed text but said that his delegation, as it had already had occasion to explain in the World Health Assembly, could not agree to WHO being deprived of its role as leader in the fight against AIDS.

12. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation fully shared the position of the French delegation.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/51].

13. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) noted that the Council had just adopted a number of draft decisions and resolutions which had programme budget implications

for the 1994-1995 biennium. Unfortunately, many of the statements on the financial implications submitted by the Secretariat did not give an estimate of the likely costs. That made the Council's task most difficult, as it was approving texts which had unknown budgetary implications.

14. His delegation would therefore have to reserve its position on all resolutions having programme budget implications for the 1994-1995 biennium, until consideration of that matter at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. His delegation would also make specific statements on certain of those resolutions.

(*g*) Human settlements

(*h*) Environment

(*i*) Desertification and drought

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/112)

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the four draft decisions contained in paragraphs 24 (draft decisions I and II), 29 and 34 of the report of the Economic Committee.

The draft decisions were adopted [decisions 1993/309 to 1993/312].

AGENDA ITEM 16

Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/114)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan" recommended to it for adoption by the Economic Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. The text had been approved by the Economic Committee in a roll-call vote by 24 votes to 4, with 14 abstentions. He understood that the Council wished to proceed in a similar manner.

17. Mr. MARRERO (United States) considered that the proposed text was political in nature and inflammatory and that it could only compromise the peace process initiated. The Economic and Social Council was not the appropriate body to settle political questions. The parties involved were already engaged in negotiations and the Council should support their efforts instead of endeavouring to compete with that initiative. The draft resolution made no useful contribution to the alleviation of tension.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Malaysia, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Japan, Poland, Russian Federation.

The draft resolution was adopted by 41 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions [resolution 1993/52].

18. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Spain) and Mrs. KIRNBAUER (Austria) said that if their delegations had been present during the vote, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

19. Mrs. NIKIFOROVA (Russian Federation) said that her delegation had abstained since an effort to achieve a settlement had already been initiated between the parties directly concerned, i.e. between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Russian Federation, which was sponsoring the peace talks, had no wish to jeopardize their progress.

20. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, explained that the latter had voted in favour of the draft resolution, welcoming the fact that the Council had by means of its decision reasserted the importance of the peace process in the Middle East for the social and economic development of the region. He was referring in particular to the settlement policy in the occupied territories, which the Community and its member States had always condemned, since it had direct repercussions on the peace process and on development prospects. In that context, the moderation of settlement activities during 1993 had been a first encouraging step.

21. The Council was nevertheless not the appropriate body to conduct substantive negotiations on highly political questions. It should concentrate on the socioeconomic aspects of the issues and leave the political debate to the competent bodies.

22. Mr. HIRAISHI (Japan) said that his delegation had abstained, considering that the peace talks initiated between the parties constituted a historic opportunity that must not be missed. Japan had already stated its position very clearly with regard to the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories, which it considered to be contrary to international law and therefore unacceptable. However, Article 62 of the Charter of the United Nations, which defined the functions and powers of the

Economic and Social Council, did not confer on it any competence in political matters. His delegation had therefore abstained in order to avoid politicization of its work.

23. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that his delegation had abstained in accordance with a position which his Government had already had occasion to explain to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. It was the Assembly that was the competent body to consider that type of question, which was in fact included in its agenda.

24. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) thanked those delegations which had voted in favour of the draft resolution. He regretted that some countries had changed their position since the General Assembly's most recent deliberations on the question.

25. Mrs. KELLY (Australia) explained that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the understanding that it concerned only the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. In her opinion, that interpretation was valid for all the texts adopted on the same subject.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (*concluded*):

(*a*) Special programme of economic assistance (*concluded*)

26. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) stated that, as several delegations had pointed out, the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" (E/1993/L.43) should have been submitted under item 4 (*b*) of the agenda.

27. Mrs. FEROUKHI (Observer for Algeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that Pakistan should be added to the list of sponsors. Following informal consultations, it had been decided to insert after paragraph 3 the following new paragraph:

> "*Urges* the Government of Israel to accept *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to all territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of that Convention."

28. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that paragraphs 1-4 of the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Yemen" (E/1993/L.38) should be amended to read:

> "1. *Encourages* the international community to respond actively to the needs of Yemen and requests donor States to continue to provide assistance on bilateral and multilateral bases, with a view to enabling the Republic of Yemen to address the emergency situation;
>
> "2. *Calls upon* Member States and all organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations and the financial institutions to provide assistance to the Government of Yemen in its reconstruction and development efforts;
>
> "3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts and requests him to continue to coordinate the activities of the United Nations organizations to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to Yemen, with a view to assisting Yemen in the mobilization of its own resources;
>
> "4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its regular session in 1994 a written report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

29. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) announced that the following countries had asked to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/1993/L.38: Benin, France, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/58].

30. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon", the words "Lebanon and to take" should be replaced by "Lebanon and invites them to take".

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/59].

31. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM 7

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (*continued**)

32. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan), introducing the draft decision entitled "World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction" (E/1993/L.42), reminded the Council that Japan had announced its intention of hosting the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held in May 1994. His delegation had worked in close collaboration with other delegations in order to submit a draft decision which could contribute to the success of that Conference. Since the text of the draft decision was quite explicit and simple, it was to be hoped that it would receive unanimous support, particularly from the Group of 77.

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* Resumed from the 40th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*continued**)

33. The PRESIDENT announced that the Netherlands should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Fourth replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development" (E/1993/L.27).

34. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that, following informal consultations, three amendments had been made to the draft resolution. In the footnote on the first page, the words "African Group" should be replaced by "African States". In the fourth preambular paragraph, in the first line, the words "*Recalling further*" should be replaced by the words "*Bearing also in mind*". Lastly, paragraph 2 should be replaced by the following text: "*Appeals* to all member States of the Fund, members belonging to OECD, members belonging to OPEC and other developing countries to continue to make every possible effort in the negotiating process in order to achieve the fourth replenishment of IFAD, so that it can be completed expeditiously, at the highest possible level, before the end of 1993."

35. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) announced that Chile should also be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/53].

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued***)

36. The PRESIDENT announced that Germany should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Promotion of press freedom in the world" (E/1993/L.30).

37. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) and Mrs. ASHIPALA (Observer for Namibia) said that their countries wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that, following informal consultations on the draft resolution, it had been agreed to delete the fourth preambular paragraph.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/54].

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* Resumed from the 40th meeting.

** Resumed from the 43rd meeting.

(*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies (*continued**)

39. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that, following informal consultations, two amendments had been made to the draft decision entitled "Reports of the coordination bodies considered by the Economic and Social Council" (E/1993/L.35). In the English version of the document, the second footnote on the first page should read: "E/1993/81". At the end of the text, the following new paragraph should be added:

> "(*f*) *Endorses* the comments expressed by the Committee on Programme and Coordination concerning the availability and the quality of documentation for its meetings."

The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted [decision 1993/313].

(*b*) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued***)

40. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that Angola and China should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" (E/1993/L.37).

41. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President) said that the informal consultations had not enabled a consensus to be achieved on the draft resolution.

42. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of a consensus, he would take it that the Council wished to hold a roll-call vote.

Mexico, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhu tan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Guinea, India, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago.

Against: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belarus, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine.

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* Resumed from the 42nd meeting.

** Resumed from the 43rd meeting.

The draft resolution was adopted by 28 votes to 12 with 8 abstentions [resolution 1993/55].

43. Mr. HOWARTH (Australia) said he wished to place it on record that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution E/1993/L.37 since it considered that the resolution should have reflected the language adopted by the Security Council in its resolution 765 (1992). It was also of the view that, given the role of the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council should not be addressing issues relating to decolonization.

44. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that they wholeheartedly upheld the right of peoples to self-determination and supported the activities of the specialized agencies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, they had been unable to support draft resolution E/1993/L.37 because they considered that the reference to the problems of apartheid had no place in a resolution on decolonization and that the autonomy of the specialized agencies must be respected. They also contested the need to introduce a new category of "small island Non-Self-Governing Territories", which would be regarded as unable to advance towards sustainable development without the assistance of United Nations bodies. Those reservations in no way constituted a modification of the well-known position of the European Community and its member States on the subject of apartheid and political development in South Africa.

45. Mr. ANDREASSEN (Norway) said that he unreservedly supported all efforts, in the context of the Charter of the United Nations, to eliminate colonialism and remained strongly committed to the right of self-determination of the peoples of territories which remained non-self-governing. He considered, however, that the reference to South Africa had no place in a resolution on decolonization. The text adopted did not reflect the positive developments in South Africa and did not take into consideration the need to respect the autonomy of the various specialized agencies.

46. Norway had been unable to support the draft resolution because of its objections of principle and not because of any shift in its policy on decolonization.

(*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics (*concluded**)

47. Mr. BALOCH (Observer for Pakistan) announced that the following countries had asked to join the sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimum utilization and accessibility by all States" (E/1993/L.33): Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/56].

48. Mr. BALOCH (Observer for Pakistan) said he hoped that that resolution, which had been sponsored by an exceptional number of countries representing all regions, would be rapidly and efficiently implemented.

(*d*) Question of a United Nations year for tolerance (*continued***)

49. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that Germany was not among the sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Question of a United Nations year for tolerance" (E/1993/L.31).

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/57].

50. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Sustainable development (*concluded****)

51. The PRESIDENT said that the programme-budget implications of the draft decision entitled "Sustainable development" (E/1993/L.36/Rev.1) were contained in document E/1993/25/Add.2.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/314].

52. Mr. BISHARA (Kuwait) said that while his delegation generally supported the text which had just been adopted, it had a reservation concerning the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the work of its first session (E/1993/25/Add.1). According to paragraph 46 (*c*) of that report, Governments were urged to implement an appropriate mix of economic instruments and normative measures to encourage support of the investment and infrastructure required to promote access to environmentally sound technologies. However, there was a danger that that provision might be interpreted in an abusive and discriminatory manner, particularly with regard to oil products. It would therefore have been better to approach the question of normative measures by taking into account, for example, the considerations set out in paragraph 57 of the report.

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* Resumed from the 41st meeting.

** Resumed from the 32nd meeting.

*** Resumed from the 43rd meeting.

53. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) said that the European Community and its member States had supported the resolution which had just been adopted, welcoming the fact that the Council respected to the full the decisions and recommendations carefully negotiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session. However, the decision taken in no way prejudiced the budgetary aspects or the organization of the inter-sessional work of the Commission.

54. The Secretariat had submitted the financial implications of the provision of conference services for the Commission's two working groups (technology transfer and financial questions). In that connection, it was not desirable that the working groups should become full subsidiary bodies of the Commission; their more flexible status should be maintained. Lastly, in the choice of dates and venues for meetings of the working groups, account should be taken of meetings already scheduled on similar subjects, so as to mobilize all available resources within the Secretariat.

55. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of agenda item 9.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*continued*)

56. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (E/1993/L.39).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/315].

AGENDA ITEM 22

Elections

57. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its 34th meeting, the Council had decided, at the request of Canada, to include in its agenda the item "Elections", in accordance with rule 15 of its rules of procedure. At the same meeting, the Council had elected Canada by acclamation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

58. On 27 July, the Secretariat had been informed by the Organization of African Unity that the African Group supported Tunisia's candidature for membership of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year mandate as from 1 January 1994.

59. If there were no other candidatures, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Tunisia by acclamation to the Commission on the Status of Women.

It was so decided [decision 1993/230].

60. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed consideration of agenda item 22.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

46th meeting

Friday, 30 July 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Juan SOMAVÍA (Chile)

E/1993/SR.46

AGENDA ITEM 14

Regional cooperation

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/109)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolutions I to IX, which the Committee recommended for adoption in paragraph 42 of its report.

Draft resolutions I to IX were adopted [resolutions 1993/60 to 1993/68].

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider decisions I to IV, which the Committee recommended for adoption in paragraph 43 of its report.

Draft decisions I to IV were adopted [decisions 1993/316 to 1993/319].

3. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation had not wanted to oppose the adop-

tion of the draft resolutions but that some of them, for example those dealing with the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, had financial implications; his country felt that the necessary additional resources should be obtained through greater decentralization of activities and voluntary contributions.

4. The Belgian delegation had had some comments distributed (E/1993/115) on the Secretary-General's report on regional cooperation (E/1993/85). It was for the Secretary-General to word his reports as he saw fit and it was not for the Belgian delegation to ask the Council to change the wording of paragraph 77 of that report, particularly as the paragraph in question was taken from paragraph 136 of the report of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/1993/37), unanimously adopted by the Commission.

5. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that, as had already been stated at the previous meeting, the United Kingdom would reserve its position on all resolutions whose financial implications had not been specified.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Development and international economic cooperation (*continued*):

(*c*) Science and technology for development

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/110)

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to examine draft resolutions I to VII, which the Committee recommended for adoption in paragraphs 38 and 40 of its report.

7. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) pointed out that during the informal negotiations on draft resolution I on the contribution of technologies to the industrialization of developing countries, he had requested that a note in the Committee's report should indicate that the delegation of the United States would support the draft resolution only if it had no financial implications, especially in respect of its paragraph 1.

Draft resolution I was adopted [resolution 1993/69].

8. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) wished to make sure that the text of draft resolution III concerning the activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development was the one into which amendments had been incorporated during the informal consultations.

9. The PRESIDENT confirmed that that was so.

Draft resolutions II to VI were adopted [resolutions 1993/70 to 1993/75].

10. At the request of Mr. MONGBE (Benin), Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) explained that the preambular paragraph which read "*Recommends* to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution" had been deleted and replaced by the following text:

> "*Transmits* to the General Assembly for further consideration the following draft resolution as approved by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its first session:"

11. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the latter had been unable to support draft resolution VII for three reasons of principle: the text had not been discussed in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and had therefore not been accepted by all its members; the draft had financial implications for the biennium 1994-1995 which were still not known; and it referred several times to the restructuring of the services of the United Nations Secretariat and anticipated its outcome. However, the member States of the European Community realized the importance of the question for international cooperation, and had therefore agreed that the text should be transmitted to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, for detailed consideration.

Draft resolution VII, as amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/75].

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decisions I to III, the adoption of which was recommended by the Economic Committee in paragraph 39 of its report.

Draft decisions I to III were adopted [decisions 1993/320 to 1993/322].

(*f*) Population questions

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(E/1993/112)

13. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development" which the Committee had decided to refer to in paragraph 17 of its report.

14. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine) pointed out that the draft resolution incorporated the amendments made during the informal consultations to the text which appeared in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the work of its second session (E/1993/69, para. 1). Those amendments were the following:

(*a*) In the third preambular paragraph after the words "for the least developed countries for the 1990s,", the words "45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children" should be inserted;

(*b*) The last preambular paragraph should be deleted and replaced by the text:

> "Stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development to be able to accomplish its work before the Conference itself,";

(*c*) Paragraph 3 should be deleted and two new paragraphs, 3 and 4, inserted:

> "3. *Decides* to extend the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference by one week, starting on 4 April 1994, and to ensure that adequate facilities are available for it, all within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995;
>
> "4. *Decides also* to convene two-day pre-conference consultations at the venue of the Conference;";

(*d*) Lastly, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 should be renumbered accordingly.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/76].

15. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, pointed out that the latter had accepted the extension of the work of the Preparatory Committee only on condition that it had no financial implications.

16. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) wished to make it clear that, as far as the Russian Federation was concerned, the one-week extension of the work of the Preparatory Committee and the two-day pre-conference consultations should be financed from existing resources supplemented, if need be, by voluntary contributions.

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decisions I to III to which the Committee had decided to refer it in paragraph 18 of its report.

Draft decisions I to III were adopted [decisions 1993/323 to 1003/325].

18. Mr. MAIMESKOUL (Ukraine) noted that some of the decisions on population questions could have financial implications and sometimes even rather serious ones. His delegation would therefore reserve its position on those decisions until the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as the latter would then have to consider their budgetary implications.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (*concluded**):

(*a*) Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development (*concluded)**

(*b*) Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (*concluded*)**

19. The PRESIDENT proposed that after the informal consultations, the Council should adopt, as an introduction to the jointly agreed conclusions (E/1993/L.25 and L.26), the following introductory statement:

> "In its decision 1993/205 the Economic and Social Council decided that the coordination segment would reach agreed conclusions containing specific recommendations on matters related to coordination addressed to the various parts of the United Nations system for implementation. The Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit those recommendations to the competent bodies of the United Nations system for implementation and to apprise the Council at its substantive session of 1994 of the steps taken by the United Nations system to give effect to those recommendations."

It was so decided.

20. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) pointed out that the States Members of the United Nations, and the developing countries in particular, would need in future to refer frequently to the conclusions currently appearing in documents E/1993/L.25 and E/1993/L.26 and wished to know what reference numbers would be given to the conclusions that the Council had just officially adopted.

21. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) suggested that the Council should include those conclusions as annexes to its report or assign them a decision number.

22. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) felt that it should be left to the secretariat to decide what symbol should be used.

23. The PRESIDENT suggested that the representatives of Benin and Brazil should consult the secretariat in order to find the most satisfactory solution.

It was so decided.

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* Resumed from the 29th meeting.

** Resumed from the 23rd meeting.

24. Mr. MELÉNDEZ (Colombia) asked that, in the draft conclusions contained in document E/1993/L.26, where reference was made in the penultimate line of paragraph 7 to "the development" of the new anti-malaria vaccine, the Spanish version should be brought into line with the English version.

25. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had taken due note of that request and announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Operational activities for development (*concluded*)

26. The PRESIDENT pointed out that in its report (E/1993/91, annex III), the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1995-1996. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 1993/77].

27. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*continued*):

(*a*) Reports of the coordination bodies (*concluded*)

28. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (E/1993/84) on the programmes and resources of the United Nations system.

It was so decided [decision 1993/326].

(*b*) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*concluded*)

29. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine) announced that a new paragraph (3 *bis*) had been added by its authors to the draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/1993/L.43 and Corr.1). The new paragraph read as follows:

> "*Urges* the Government of Israel to accept *de jure* applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to all territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and to abide scrupulously by its provisions,".

The informal consultations had not enabled any consensus to be reached on that text.

30. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his delegation was against a draft resolution that was political in nature, controversial in its language and generally unhelpful to the ongoing peace process. The Economic and Social Council was not the appropriate forum in which to express political views and it should support those efforts. The draft resolution would not improve the situation on the ground nor would it help to resolve the fundamental issues which were currently the subject of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

France, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted by 45 votes to 1 [resolution 1993/78].

31. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Spain) said that if his delegation had been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

32. Mrs. FEROUKHI (Observer for Algeria) said that she welcomed the fact that there had been no abstentions. She was confident that, especially in the present context, the decision taken would advance the peace process.

33. Mrs. KELLY (Australia) said that the reference to the "Palestinian certificates of origin" in paragraph 5 of the text in favour of which her delegation had voted did not mean that Australia recognized the existence of a Palestinian State.

34. Mr. ANDREASSEN (Norway) said that the provision in paragraph 3 for close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization did not in any way restrict the right which his country reserved to assist the Palestinian people by other means, for example, through non-governmental organizations.

35. Mrs. FREUDENSHUSS (Austria) said that the fact that Austria had voted in favour of the text did not mean that her country was able to recognize the Palestinian certificates of origin referred to in paragraph 5.

36. Mr. HAMDAN (Observer for Palestine) thanked the delegations which, in voting in favour of the text, had reaffirmed the principle of assistance to a people subjected to foreign occupation. He also thanked the Arab families and the European friends of the Palestinians who were providing them with valuable assistance.

37. In 1992, the delegation of the United States had voted against a similar text, claiming that it did not specifically mention the peace talks. In 1993, it had found another excuse for opposing the draft under consideration, thus displaying the kind of partiality that could do nothing to facilitate the peace process. If the draft resolution just adopted by the Council represented a threat to that process, how should one describe the brutal war and the massacres of Palestinian women and children perpetrated by Israel in Lebanon?

(*e*) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (*concluded**)

38. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Ukraine), referring to paragraph 8 of the draft resolution entitled "Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health" (E/1993/L.32), said that it had been decided to delete the adjective "global" describing "pandemic".

39. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully approved of the content of the draft resolution under consideration. However, for technical reasons, it had to withdraw its sponsorship.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/79].

40. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) thanked the delegations which had participated in the negotiations on the draft resolution just adopted. It was a balanced text which envisaged both the reduction of demand and the mitigation of the economic impact that it could have on the producing countries. Paragraph 3 of the draft was particularly welcome, in that it asserted the essential functions of the Economic and Social Council, which were to improve coordination, cooperation and collaboration among the multilateral institutions, especially within the United Nations system. It was a sign of the strengthening of relations between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

41. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4 (*a*) to (*e*).

AGENDA ITEM 5

Programme and related questions (*concluded***)

42. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

"*Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific*

"The Economic and Social Council decides to accept with gratitude the invitation of the Government of China (E/1993/11) to host the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with section I, paragraph 4 (*f*) of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985."

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/327].

43. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

AGENDA ITEM 7

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (*concluded*)

44. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision on the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (E/1993/L.42).

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/328].

45. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan) thanked the Council for accepting his Government's offer to host the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction at Yokohama from 23 to 27 May 1994.

46. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster (*concluded**)

47. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its thirty-ninth session, the Council had decided to take note of the proposals contained in the oral report of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

48. He announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Non-governmental organizations (*concluded***)

49. Mr. SLIPTCHENKO (Vice-President), referring to the draft resolution entitled "Review of the arrange-

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* Resumed from the 40th meeting.

** Resumed from the 34th meeting.

* Resumed from the 39th meeting.

** Resumed from the 42nd meeting.

ments for consultation with non-governmental organizations" contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1993/63, para. 1), said that informal consultations had made it possible to draft a new text published in document E/1993/63/Corr.2. The financial implications of that draft appeared in document E/1993/L.44.

50. In view of the above, the sponsor of draft resolution E/1993/L.34 had decided to withdraw his text.

The draft resolution in document E/1993/63/Corr.2 was adopted [resolution 1993/80].

51. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations", which the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in paragraph 2 of its report (E/1993/63), had recommended for its adoption.

52. Mr. KHOURY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that among the non-governmental organizations to which, under the terms of the draft, the Economic and Social Council would decide to grant consultative status were Human Rights Watch and the International Lesbian and Gay Association. He hoped that a vote would be taken on the draft decision.

53. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) said that his country agreed with the position of the Syrian Arab Republic on the lack of credibility of the two non-governmental organizations in question. He hoped that the Council would not grant them consultative status.

54. Mr. ACOSTA (Colombia), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, said that it would indeed be desirable to take a vote in order to settle the case of these two non-governmental organizations.

55. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that, since the question had been debated at great length in the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, there appeared to be no point in voting on it. Invoking the provisions of article 67, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, he requested the Council not to take a decision on the Syrian proposal.

56. Mrs. BIRGIN (Australia) and Mrs. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) supported the motion of the United Kingdom.

57. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) and Mr. ZHOU Xikang (China) said that their delegations supported the position of the Chairman of the Group of 77.

58. The PRESIDENT said that the Council would vote first on the motion put forward by the United Kingdom.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Guinea, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Angola, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Guinea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bhutan, Botswana, India, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

The motion put forward by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was rejected by 20 votes to 18, with 8 abstentions.

59. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take a decision on the case of the organization Human Rights Watch.

60. Mr. ZHOU Xikang (China), explaining his delegation's position before the vote, welcomed the increasingly active role played by the non-governmental organizations in all areas of the United Nations but denounced the politicization of some of them which, in violation of the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, were interfering in the internal affairs of States. There were the most serious reservations about the activities of Human Rights Watch, and it was no accident that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had postponed consideration of its application for consultative status on several occasions. It was most regrettable that the Committee had not been able to take a decision on the subject by consensus, and that a vote had to be taken on it. China, for its part, would vote against granting consultative status to Human Rights Watch.

61. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) also regretted that the Committee had created a dangerous precedent by not deciding on the issue by consensus. The Cuban delegation felt that the organization Human Rights Watch did not satisfy the conditions set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), and would vote against granting it consultative status.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Romania, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: China, Cuba, Swaziland.

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nigeria, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago.

Human Rights Watch was granted consultative status (category II) by 31 votes to 3, with 12 abstentions.

62. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to take a decision on the case of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

63. Mrs. LE FRAPER DU HELLEN (France) pointed out that the non-governmental organization in question fought for non-discrimination and that its activities deserved the full support of the Council. Therefore, the delegation of France was in favour of its inclusion in the List.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Poland, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Malaysia, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo.

Abstaining: Angola, Bahamas, Bhutan, Botswana, China, Colombia, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association was granted consultative status (Roster) by 22 votes to 4, with 17 abstentions.

64. Mr. TIRUMURTI (India) explained that his delegation had abstained on the present as well as on the previous vote, because it thought it regrettable that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had not adhered to the principle of adopting its decisions by consensus.

65. Mr. MUDZAKIR (Malaysia) explained that his delegation had cast a negative vote because it rejected the moral values of the organization in question. Furthermore, the delegation of Malaysia would like to know whether the allegations made during the debates in the Committee regarding the two organizations in question were justified or not.

66. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) emphasized how unfortunate it was that the Committee had departed from its traditional practice of adopting decisions by consensus.

67. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) regretted that certain non-governmental organizations had tried to lobby the delegations before the meeting. Such conduct was not likely to advance the cause of the non-governmental organizations.

The entire draft decision I appearing in document E/1993/63 was adopted [decision 1993/329].

68. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) welcomed the fact that the draft decision had been adopted in its entirety; she regretted that the voting procedure had had to be resorted to but pointed out that such a course of action was in keeping with the rules of democratic practice.

Draft decisions II and III appearing in document E/1993/63 were adopted [decisions 1993/330 and 1993/331].

AGENDA ITEM 11

United Nations University (*concluded**)

69. The PRESIDENT said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to record formally the report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1992 (E/1993/40).

It was so decided [decision 1993/332].

70. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 11.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*concluded*)

71. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should take formal note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1993/20).

It was so decided [decision 1993/333].

72. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Development and international economic cooperation (*concluded*)

73. The PRESIDENT said that China had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Committee for development planning (E/1993/L.45)".

74. Mrs. SILVA (Colombia) introduced, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, several amendments to draft

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* Resumed from the 35th meeting.

resolution E/1993/L.45. A third preambular paragraph should be added which would read:

> "*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 entitled 'Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development'."

The three operative paragraphs should read:

> "1. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning as set out by the Council in its relevant resolutions, without prejudice to the results of the reform of the United Nations system being undertaken in the economic, social and related fields;
>
> "2. *Notes with deep concern* that the experts members of the Committee for Development Planning were not appointed in time to enable the 1993 session to be held;
>
> "3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the 1993 session of the Committee for Development Planning to be convened at an early date and, in any case, no later than December 1993."

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted [resolution 1993/81].

75. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that he regretted that the question had been addressed so late. The draft resolution just adopted was satisfactory. Nevertheless, in order not to prejudge the outcome of the discussions on the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning, it had been decided also to submit a separate and complementary draft decision which would read:

> "*The Economic and Social Council*
>
> "*Decides* to include on its agenda an item entitled 'Committee for Development Planning' which it will consider on the resumption of its substantive session in 1993."

76. Mrs. KELLY (Australia) said that she also regretted that the question had been examined at the last minute.

The draft decision submitted orally by Belgium was adopted [decision 1993/334].

77. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) pointed out that, although the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 had been presented late to the Council, it nevertheless constituted a particularly significant contribution to its work. The draft decision from the European Community had also been submitted late, but that had not prevented its adoption.

78. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that he would like to know when the decision to resume the session of the Council in September had been taken and what agenda was envisaged.

79. Mrs. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the decision had been taken in plenary, during the second week of the work of the Council. For the present, there were three items to be considered at the resumed session: the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the common system, the report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, submitted to the Economic Committee, and finally, the question of the Committee for Development Planning.

80. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Human rights questions (*continued**)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE
(E/1993/108)

81. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to resume consideration of draft decision 33 proposed by the Social Committee in its report (E/1993/108, para. 99), the text of which appeared in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-ninth session (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision 34), entitled "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights".

82. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) proposed that the Council should postpone the decision on the draft concerning assistance to Guatemala until the resumed session in September. That additional period of time was in fact indispensable in order to support the peace process in Guatemala, where significant progress in respect for human rights had already been recorded.

83. Mr. BENNET (United States) supported the proposal of Colombia that the decision concerning assistance to Guatemala should be postponed, taking into account the talks concerning that country under way in New York. Besides, an agreement might well be reached before the resumption of the Council session in September, in which case the Council could meet earlier.

84. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation also supported the proposal of Colombia.

85. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) said that there were some doubts about the independent expert responsible for examining the situation of human rights in Guatemala, Mr. Tomuschat. In the absence of information which would enable a decision to be taken on the draft submitted by the Commission on Human Rights, the

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* Resumed from the 44th meeting.

Cuban delegation proposed to the Council another draft decision which would read:

> "The Economic and Social Council, taking note of draft decision 34 the text of which is contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights, takes it that the independent expert who has fulfilled his mandate during the past two years will continue to discharge his duties."

86. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation understood and shared some of the concerns expressed over the extension of the mandate of the independent expert. But from the point of view of principles and procedure, it would be unwise for the Council not to accept a recommendation which the Commission on Human Rights had already endorsed. As to the question of the personality of the independent expert, that was not the Council's concern. The United Kingdom could not therefore support the proposal to postpone the decision on that subject and asked for a vote to be taken on the question.

87. Mrs. LE FRAPER DU HELLEN (France) noted that there was a consensus on the substance of the draft decision proposed. Only the doubts concerning the independent expert prevented a conclusion from being reached and those could be removed by using other approaches. The delegation of France therefore was unwilling to postpone the decision of the Council concerning the question of assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights.

88. Mrs. JIMÉNEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation could support the proposal of Colombia, provided it was understood that the secretariat should explain why it had been impossible to furnish the Council with the necessary information about the present independent expert. But given the consensus which appeared to be emerging on the substantive issue, the delegation of Mexico could just as readily support the proposal of Cuba, which was also a step in the right direction.

89. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) noted that all that was involved, according to the proposal of Colombia, was to authorize the Council to continue consideration of the question until its resumed session.

90. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) pointed out that the Council was being called upon to decide whether to defer a decision on the draft which had been recommended to it by the Commission on Human Rights.

At the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a vote was taken by roll-call on the proposal of Colombia to postpone the decision of the Council on the draft decision concerning assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights.

Chile, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America.

Against: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, China, Guinea, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Ukraine.

The proposal of Colombia was adopted by 17 votes to 11, with 18 abstentions [decision 1993/335].

91. Mrs. LUND (Norway), explaining her vote after the vote, said that her delegation had voted in favour of the proposal of Colombia because it felt that every means should be used to support the peace process initiated in Guatemala. At the same time, its vote did not imply any modification in the position of Norway as regards the role of the Economic and Social Council in the appointment of independent experts and special rapporteurs or the extension of their mandate in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights.

92. Mr. BENNET (United States of America), explaining his vote after the vote, said that his delegation agreed with the comments of Norway. The United States was not seeking to restrict the powers of the Economic and Social Council in respect of the appointment of the independent experts and special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights. Nor was it against the extension of the mandate of the independent expert responsible for examining the situation of human rights in Guatemala.

93. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 18 with the exception of the question of assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights.

Organization of work

94. Mr. PETROV (Russian Federation) formally proposed that the question of the consideration of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 should be included in the agenda of the resumed session of the Council.

95. The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had considered the question of improving the Council's working methods. A number of concerns had been stated in connection with the restructuring of the United Nations, not only within the framework of the high-level debate but also when coordination questions and operational activities were discussed. The President had therefore sent a letter to the President of the General Assembly indicating the disappointment of the Council at the fact that, on 25 June 1993, the Assembly had failed to take a decision on its agenda item 47 entitled "Restructuring and revi-

talization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields''. The President had explained, in the same letter, that it was indispensable that the necessary measures should be taken, without delay, to strengthen the efficiency of the Council, as all the regional groups and representatives of the Secretariat had stressed at the present session. Finally, he had pointed out that it would be very desirable that a decision should be taken on the matter before the next session of the General Assembly and had requested that the letter should be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 47.

96. The problem of documentation was also becoming increasingly acute. To date, the Council had authorized its subsidiary bodies to hold 64 sessions in 1994 and 43 sessions in 1995. More than five sessions per month were planned in 1994, excluding the organizational sessions and the substantive sessions of the Council itself. Three subsidiary bodies which were supposed to meet only in odd years had been authorized to hold special sessions in 1994. That same year, some 100 meetings were planned for the first half of the year and only in the first week of January were no meetings of subsidiary bodies scheduled.

97. The necessary documentation for 1994, not counting the documents of the Council itself, represented some 29,000 pages—in other words 15 documents of 30 pages each, for each session scheduled in the calendar of meetings—or a total of nearly 1,000 documents. It was estimated furthermore that 2,000 pages of documentation were submitted to the Council every year. Those figures showed that efforts would have to be made to ensure that documents were issued as required.

Suspension of the substantive session of 1993

98. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the substantive session of 1993 suspended.

The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.

Resumed substantive session of 1993

47th meeting

Thursday, 21 October 1993, at 4.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.47

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*[*])

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1993/117, containing a list of items for consideration at the Council's resumed substantive session, and said that, after consultations with the Bureau, he was suggesting that at the current meeting, the Council should consider the item entitled "Human rights questions", under which it would take up the question of assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights, and the item entitled "Committee for Development Planning" which, by its decision 1993/334, the Council had decided to consider at its resumed substantive session. Documentation for the other two items on the agenda was not available and their consideration would accordingly be postponed.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Human rights questions (*concluded*)

2. The PRESIDENT said that, by its decision 1993/335 of 30 July 1993, the Council had decided to postpone consideration of the draft decision entitled "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights", which was contained in the report of the Commission on Human

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[*] Resumed from the 34th meeting.

Rights (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5, sect. I.B., draft decision 34) and reproduced in document E/1993/122. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that decision.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 1993/336].

3. Mr. MARTINI HERRERA (Observer for Guatemala) said that his Government wished to thank the group of friendly countries which had done its best to ensure positive and impartial assistance to Guatemala, not only with respect to its legal system but also to its overall modernization, thereby helping it to solve serious problems of development, education and health within a framework intended to ensure the distribution of wealth and the eradication of poverty. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary-General and welcomed his attempt to help Guatemala find an adviser to assist it in continuing its constructive work in the field of human rights.

4. Full cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights had always been his Government's policy, despite its awareness, shared by many other countries, that a certain double standard might have been applied in a large number of human rights cases. Guatemala had benefited from United Nations assistance and advice since 1983, when his country had invited the Organization to review the human rights situation on site. Owing to that assistance, Guatemala had been able to ensure democracy and was currently striving to perfect its democratic institutions and to implement the recommendations that had been made regarding human rights. In addition, awareness of human rights issues had been raised, inspiring activism throughout the country.

5. Guatemala was close to meeting the goal it had set a few years earlier. It was a party to nearly all the international human rights instruments and had accepted the voluntary jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

6. The Government and the people of Guatemala were committed to accepting the assistance offered by the United Nations in the field of human rights. Even armed groups and insurgents in his country were taking note of that commitment. His Government would not fail to honour its agreements and would continue to make improvements in the field of human rights.

7. The PRESIDENT said he hoped that the adoption of the decision by the Economic and Social Council would be beneficial to the Guatemalan people.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Committee for Development Planning

8. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that, in its resolution 1993/81 of 30 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council had expressed its concern at the fact that the expert members of the Committee for Development Planning had not been appointed in time for the session of the Committee scheduled for 1993. In that connection, he drew attention to paragraph 31 of resolution 47/191 in which the General Assembly had taken note of the views of the Secretary-General regarding the functions of the High-level Advisory Board and of the Committee for Development Planning and had requested him to submit appropriate proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993, including the possibility of establishing rosters of experts. In response, the Secretary-General had presented in his report on the High-level Advisory Board (E/1993/15/Rev.1) specific proposals which were still under consideration by the Council.

9. It had, therefore, not been possible for the Secretary-General to appoint members to the Committee for Development Planning, after the Committee's mandate had expired on 31 December 1992. To have done so would have contravened the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191 and anticipated the decisions which the Council had yet to take on the Secretary-General's report. The Secretary-General urged the Council to take those decisions and provide the Secretariat with a clear mandate for action.

10. It was appropriate in that context to recall the specific proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/1993/15/Rev.1). The Secretary-General had proposed that a roster of experts should be established so that the High-level Advisory Board, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council could avail themselves of such technical expert advice as might be necessary on the wide array of issues falling within their competence. The range of issues on which technical advice might be needed was becoming increasingly broad. The roster of experts was accordingly envisaged as being flexible and subject to biennial review. Such experts (some of whom might be former members of the Committee for Development Planning) could be called upon to provide competent advice on the general economic and development issues currently addressed within that Committee. Furthermore, the specific functions related to criteria for identifying least developed countries might be assigned, as needed and upon the Council's request, to ad hoc meetings of experts on the roster, taking into account the experience gained and procedures used in that regard within the context of the Committee for Development Planning.

11. The roster of experts would operate in a flexible manner: small ad hoc meetings of experts would be called to address specific issues. In addition to preparing reports for the High-level Advisory Board, the experts could be requested by the Commission on Sustainable Development or the Economic and Social Council to prepare studies and analytical reports on particular matters or to set up small ad hoc advisory groups or panels for specific purposes.

12. The proposals set forth in the Secretary-General's report thus preserved the essential aims of the Committee for Development Planning and, at the same time, broadened the base of expertise to cover the full range of economic, social and environmental issues that would be considered by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the High-level Advisory Board. A degree of flexibility was incorporated in the set of proposals: experts needed for a particular issue would be brought together in small, ad hoc groups and multi-disciplinary groups of experts could be established as needed.

13. The Secretariat was requesting the Economic and Social Council to take a definitive stand on the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report.

14. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the position of the Community members was well known: they wished to avoid giving the impression that development and sustainable development were two separate issues and, accordingly, believed that it was not appropriate to have two advisory bodies with different functions in the same area. Furthermore, having two bodies would be financially wasteful, which the Organization could hardly permit at a time of budgetary restraint.

15. The Committee for Development Planning had performed specific functions which should certainly be preserved, in particular those relating to the criteria for the least developed countries.

16. Given the universal importance of sustainable development, it would seem desirable to combine the functions of the Committee for Development Planning with those of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, as the Secretary-General had proposed in paragraph 60 of his report (A/47/598 and Add.1) on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The members of the Community were flexible in regard to the manner in which that merger of functions might take place, as long as those functions to which they attached importance were maintained.

17. The proposal by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development appeared to be an excellent starting-point. Nevertheless, there was a need to specify the precise details of the administrative relationships and respective responsibilities involved in such a merger, bearing in mind the administrative and legal aspects of the matter.

18. Nothing in the position of the Community members was meant to diminish in any way the importance they attached to development in general. They were well aware that the Committee for Development Planning had a history of distinguished service since its inception in 1965. Yet, that Committee's mandate had been modified on several occasions when the need had arisen and they believed that such flexibility was still relevant to any current consideration of the matter. In that spirit, it was unfortunate that certain administrative issues might give rise to conflict. In the long run, it should be possible to find a solution acceptable to all.

19. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the question of the Committee for Development Planning had remained unresolved. Resolution 1993/81, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 30 July 1993, had reaffirmed the existing mandate of the Committee, without prejudice to future decisions by the Council on the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. It seemed, therefore, rather odd that the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development should be referring at the current stage to the state of affairs that had existed at the time when he had submitted the proposal to eliminate the Committee for Development Planning. That Committee had carried out important studies and had provided information vital to decision-making and the elaboration of recommendations; it had done all of the basic work relating to the least developed countries. No consensus had been reached with respect to eliminating an intergovernmental body in that area.

20. The Secretary-General's proposal was not acceptable to the Group of 77 and China because it would transform a group of intergovernmental experts into a high-level committee, reporting to the Secretary-General. The Committee for Development Planning and the High-level Advisory Body were two separate bodies and had two distinct mandates. The Committee was a United Nations intergovernmental body and thus acted in accordance with the will of the sovereign States Members of the Organization; the Advisory Body was a high-level committee which reported directly to the Secretary-General. The establishment of a roster of experts, to be brought together on an ad hoc basis, was not the same as an intergovernmental body.

21. It must be borne in mind that it was through intergovernmental bodies that decisions on the policies and guidelines of the Organization were made. For that reason, he believed firmly that the Committee for Development Planning must continue to function. Furthermore, the Secretary-General was under an obligation to ensure that the Committee met in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/81.

22. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said he was aware of the importance of the objections raised by the representative of Colombia. In fact, both he and the representative of Colombia seemed to be referring to the same kind of problems, namely those of access to the experts and their accountability. If precise rules could be laid down regulating those areas then the Secretary-General's proposal could be acceptable to all. There needed to be a clear framework covering the composition of the roster of experts according to region and

expertise. Furthermore, the roster should be subject to periodic renewal to ensure a constant source of new ideas and, most importantly, Member States should be guaranteed access to the experts so that if an intergovernmental body requested a report that request would be carried out. The situation was unprecedented, so such rules would need to be invented.

23. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that he fully supported the representative of Colombia, but having heard the representative of Belgium he considered that negotiations could continue. Clarification was needed from the Secretariat however, since the Committee for Development Planning had played such an important role, in particular for the least developed countries, that it would be in no one's interest to decide its fate on purely administrative grounds. Therefore, his delegation proposed that no decision should be taken immediately but that all the interested parties should hold consultations in order to find a compromise solution.

24. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he had nothing against the proposals made by the representative of Benin and the representative of Belgium, but it should be remembered that the Council had not yet taken a final decision on the subject; it was studying it and would return to it at a later date. However, the Council had taken a decision in resolution 1993/81, adopted in July 1993, which reaffirmed the existing mandate of the Committee for Development Planning and requested the Secretary-General to convene the Committee before the end of December 1993. Any discussion concerning the Committee for Development Planning could only take place on the understanding that resolution 1993/81 obliged the Secretary-General to renew its mandate.

25. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that his delegation's proposal did not contradict the resolution; his delegation simply considered that it would be beneficial to all to continue the discussion.

26. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) wished to reassure the Council that the Secretariat respected intergovernmental mandates. Concerning the access of Member States to the roster of experts, it was envisaged that bodies such as the Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development would be able to request reports directly from the experts. As for periodic renewal, he had already planned that the roster would be established on a two-year basis. The roster would provide an alternative to a large and costly committee bringing all the experts together to work on each report; the roster would make it possible to select multi-disciplinary groups of experts for specific reports which might be requested as part of the intergovernmental process, or by the Secretariat or the High-level Advisory Board.

27. The primary purpose of the roster was to provide an input to the intergovernmental process, since the Secretariat could always hire consultants if it so desired. Use of the roster would mean that those who requested reports would know which experts had prepared them. The Committee for Development Planning had made a valuable contribution to the intergovernmental process and the proposed establishment of the roster reflected the need for such contribution to be continued on a broader and more intensive basis. The experts would be selected so that there was balanced representation in terms of region, expertise and, equally importantly, gender. The way in which the roster would function would be determined according to the Member States' concerns and recommendations. The Secretariat's purpose was to serve Member States.

28. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said he wished to remind the Council of the secret report commissioned by the Secretary-General from experts which had been used as the basis for restructuring the Secretariat. Secret reports by experts should not be used as the basis for fundamental decisions, because transparency and clarity were absolutely essential in the Organization, which must rely on intergovernmental bodies, not groups of experts reporting to the Secretary-General. He agreed that the discussion should continue but hoped there would be no further recourse to that kind of secret report.

29. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), noting that the Under-Secretary-General had said that the Secretariat would respect intergovernmental mandates, inquired whether that meant that the Secretariat would convene a meeting of the Committee for Development Planning before the end of December 1993, as requested in Council resolution 1993/81.

30. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the Secretariat was looking into the practical aspects of complying with the request. The resolution had only been adopted in July and the Organization was currently in the middle of the General Assembly session. It was to be hoped that the situation would have changed by the end of December and that it would be possible to resolve the problem.

31. The PRESIDENT said that it would be fruitful to concentrate on the proposal made by the delegation of Benin since it seemed to have support from both sides. No formal decision should be taken at the current stage, for it would be better to await finalized proposals.

32. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Under-Secretary-General did not seem to have given a precise answer to the question put by the representative of Morocco. There should be no ambiguity, however, since the Council had taken a clear decision to renew the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning. While he understood that things became more complicated during the General Assembly, it should be pointed out that the High-level Advisory Board had nevertheless

met to consider the availability of experts, money and political will.

33. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Benin, since it would be possible to continue consultations without going against resolution 1993/81. There was still time left before the end of December 1993 in which to implement that resolution, whilst taking new elements into account.

34. The PRESIDENT said that the mandate existed and would be respected but that that did not preclude the continuation of negotiations. In any case, it was clear that the matter would have to be resolved at another resumed substantive session of the Council. The Secretariat should take full note of what had been said during the discussion. For instance, the representative of Belgium had requested that precise, detailed rules should be drawn up and that matter needed looking into. He suggested that the Bureau should organize formal consultations and contacts between the interested parties.

35. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China expressed willingness to continue discussions on the understanding that since Council resolution 1993/81 had already been adopted, it was valid.

36. Mr. BIAOU (Benin) asked whether the Under-Secretary-General could arrange to have his statement distributed.

37. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that copies would be made available as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

48th meeting

Wednesday, 8 December 1993, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.48

Tribute to the memory of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of Côte d'Ivoire

1. The PRESIDENT paid tribute to the memory of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of Côte d'Ivoire.

At the invitation of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

2. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States, thanked the President for the expression of sympathy, which he would convey to the people and Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*)

3. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the list of items for consideration at the Council's resumed substantive session of 1993, contained in document E/1993/117.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Coordination questions (*concluded**)

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

4. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the relevant documents (E/1993/66, E/1993/83, E/1993/119 and Add.1) and said it was his understanding that, following informal consultations, it had been agreed that the question should be referred to the General Assembly for consideration at the current session. He therefore suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft decision:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides to take note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: review and strengthening of sections pertaining to the common system of salaries, allowances and conditions of services', contained in document E/1993/119, and the note by the

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* Resumed from the 46th meeting.

Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, contained in document E/1993/119/Add.1, and decides to transmit them to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session for further consideration and also to take note of the note by the Secretariat on the United Nations common system, which is contained in document E/1993/83, and the note by the Secretary-General on relationship agreements between the United Nations and member organizations of the United Nations common system, contained in document E/1993/66."

The draft decision suggested by the President was adopted [decision 1993/337].

AGENDA ITEM 23

Committee for Development Planning (*continued*)

5. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat contained in document E/1993/123, in which the Secretary-General had proposed that the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning should be held early in 1994 with the same membership as that of its twenty-eighth session. Although the Council had decided that the Committee should be reconvened before the end of 1993, that had not been possible owing to practical difficulties. The dates of 12 to 14 January 1994 had therefore been proposed.

6. Mr. MONTOYA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, expressed concern that the proposal was not in line with the decision taken by the Council in its resolution 1993/81, namely that the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning would be held before the end of 1993. Furthermore, he did not consider it appropriate to take a decision on such a matter on the basis of a note by the Secretariat. The Council should issue its own decision, possibly in the form of a resolution, which specified a date or at least a deadline for the convening of the Committee's next session.

7. The PRESIDENT explained that every effort had been made to comply with resolution 1993/81. However, as the Chairman as well as many members of the Committee would have been unable to attend on the dates originally scheduled, the earliest possible dates in 1994 had been proposed, namely, 12-14 January. He appealed for the understanding of members in that regard.

8. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) said he appreciated the concerns of the representative of Colombia. It would make more sense to consider substantive proposals relating to the new body that was to replace the Committee for Development Planning and related transitional arrangements before taking any decision on the convening of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee.

9. Mr. MONTOYA (Colombia) said he understood that it would be impossible for the Committee to meet before the deadline specified in resolution 1993/81. Nevertheless, he thought that the Council should follow its own precedent of adopting a resolution or taking a formal decision on the dates of the session, and that it should do so at the current meeting.

10. The PRESIDENT said that the new dates for the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning had been proposed for practical reasons. He took it that the Council wished to approve that proposal.

It was so decided [decision 1993/338].

11. The PRESIDENT introduced a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Group of Experts on Development" (E/1993/L.46), and drew attention to document E/1993/L.47, which contained the programme budget implications of the draft resolution. He suggested that a comma and the words "the Commission on Sustainable Development" should be inserted after "Economic and Social Council" in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution for the sake of consistency with paragraph 3.

12. The rationale for the establishment of the Group of Experts on Development was summarized in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. During consultations on the question, the original concept of a consultative machinery for the Secretary-General had been broadened to make the new body more relevant to other intergovernmental bodies. He urged members to support the establishment of the Group of Experts and the Group's mandate as outlined in the draft resolution.

13. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, recalled that he had stated the Union's position on the matter at the previous meeting. He wondered if the Secretariat could clarify whether the provision for the Committee for Development Planning in the proposed programme budget would be used to finance the activities of the Group of Experts on Development and whether funds would be specifically earmarked for the standing panel on least developed countries. A clear distinction must be made between the work of the new body and that of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, which advised the Secretary-General. Furthermore, when an intergovernmental body turned to the Group of Experts for advice, it should be up to that body to set the parameters and a deadline for the Group's response.

14. With respect to the composition of the Group, it was necessary to strike a balance among the different fields of expertise if the Group was to accomplish its mandate, and the European Union saw no reason why the members of the Committee for Development Planning should not be absorbed into the new group. The same principle of balance should be taken into account during the biennial review of the Group's composition. Lastly, in view of the decision just taken, the European Union believed that the Council still needed to reconfirm

the members of the Committee for Development Planning, as suggested in the note by the Secretariat.

15. Mr. MONTOYA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the draft resolution provided an excellent point of departure. After consultations, the new text was very different from the initial proposal to place the advisory body under the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development. However, the Group of 77 had not yet had enough time to review the draft resolution carefully and, given the importance of the issue, proposed that discussion in the Council should be postponed for a day or two in order to give the Group time to complete its review.

16. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), speaking as Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, said that the proposal by the representative of Colombia would mean that consultations of the Group of 77 on the draft resolution would coincide with meetings of his Committee and that it was impossible to cancel any more of those meetings. He suggested that the Group might consult immediately after the current meeting so that it could give an opinion at the next meeting of the Council, that afternoon.

17. Mr. MONTOYA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, agreed to the proposal by the representative of Benin.

18. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said he wished to suggest two minor, uncontroversial amendments to the draft resolution which the Group of 77 might wish to consider in the course of its consultations. First, in keeping with the Council's past practice, the phrase ", for approval by the Economic and Social Council," should be inserted after the word "nominate" in paragraph 2. Secondly, in view of the new functions and structure of the Group, he proposed the addition of a new paragraph which would read: "*Requests* the Economic and Social Council to review the arrangements decided upon above after a period of two years." He took it that paragraph 5 would be redrafted to incorporate the President's amendment.

19. Mr. HORIGUCHI (Japan) said that his delegation had no problem with the amendments proposed by the European Union. However, he was concerned at the possible financial implications of the Group of Experts on Development and hoped that the Secretariat could clarify them. In order to obtain the approval of the Fifth Committee and other bodies, it might be advisable to make the draft resolution more specific by replacing the phrase "panels of up to 10 experts each" in paragraph 4 with the phrase "up to five or six panels of less than 10 experts each".

20. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications (E/1993/L.47) and noted that, since the Group of Experts on Development would basically be a successor to the Committee for Development Planning, its operations could be financed from the provision in the proposed programme budget for that Committee. The cost of the panels would depend not only on their number but also on their size. The Secretariat estimated the number of panels per year at approximately six, or 12 per biennium, but some panels might meet more than once, which made it difficult to estimate cost on the basis of the number of panels. As to the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, it was associated with the Commission on Sustainable Development and thus financed under an entirely separate heading.

21. Replying to a query from the representative of Belgium, he confirmed that the panels would be financed within existing provisions on a first-come-first-served basis, but that the standing panel on the least developed countries would be financed separately so that it would be able to meet when other panels met.

22. Mr. RAMADAN (Egypt) requested clarification of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution: it was not clear whether the 40 experts would meet together or in four 10-member panels to deal with specific requests. He also wished to know whether individual panels of experts would submit recommendations directly to the requesting bodies or whether the Group of Experts would make its recommendations as a whole.

23. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that each panel, constituted in consultation with the Chairman of the Group of Experts, would submit its reports directly to the requesting intergovernmental body. That procedure would obviate the need to meet together, which would be expensive and probably unnecessary.

24. The PRESIDENT said that the panels would be independent and sovereign in their work. The new system was intended to reduce costs and provide a practical solution for coping with the many additional tasks imposed on the United Nations.

25. The request by the representative of Belgium to have the Secretary-General nominate the experts with the approval of the Economic and Social Council was in keeping with the intent of the draft resolution. As working with 40 experts at once would be cumbersome, recommendations would be made in smaller panels in consultation with the chairman of the requesting body.

26. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) asked whether the Group of Experts would replace the Committee for Development Planning before or after the Committee's twenty-ninth session. In addition, he wondered whether the term "balanced representation" in paragraph 2 referred to geographic representation or to representation with regard to levels of economic development, a notion which more accurately reflected the Council's composition.

27. The PRESIDENT said that establishment of such a Group of Experts would require time since it would be necessary to find people with qualifications in a number of fields. When the Secretary-General made his nominations, he would look for expertise in the social, environmental and economic fields while remaining mindful of the need to find experts from various regions of the world. It would not be advisable, however, to limit his choices too much, since the Group of Experts was not a regular intergovernmental body. Acceptance of the proposal by the representative of Belgium to require all the members of the Economic and Social Council to endorse the Secretary-General's nominations would guarantee that both geographic and professional balance had been taken into account.

28. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), replying to the representative of Morocco, said that as the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning was scheduled for 12-14 January 1994, there would not be time to locate the experts for the new body before the session. It was not reasonable to assume that all people of the level required would be willing to work for the United Nations free of charge. In addition, the need to balance discipline, geography and gender meant that constitution of the Group of Experts would take at least two to three months.

29. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that a more specific definition of the term "balanced representation" was in order. Although Council members understood what was meant by that expression, he could not vouch for its reception in the various capitals of the Group of 77. The Chairman had used the expression "constructive ambiguity", which could pass muster in the Council. However, some countries feared that the Committee for Development Planning would be replaced by a group of experts from a single geographic region and consequently had reservations about the draft resolution.

30. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that his Department would be guided by those concerns. In the 20 years since the Committee for Development Planning had been established, he could recall only one case of problems regarding nominations, even though the Committee's procedures for nominating experts were not more detailed than those suggested for the proposed Group of Experts. He again appealed for flexibility in the matter, which was particularly important in that experts of international standing were being asked to share their experiences and to give advice to the United Nations free of charge.

31. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) proposed that the discussion should be continued during informal consultations so that a formal opinion from the Group of 77 could be heard.

32. Ms. IRISH (Canada) supported the proposal by the representative of Belgium. There was indeed a need for flexibility in the formation of panels to provide technical advice to intergovernmental bodies. Though clarity was desirable, it must not stand in the way of flexibility.

33. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) drew attention to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which referred to a broad range of expertise, and recalled that many members of the Committee for Development were economists. In the light of the importance of that field for the Council's work, he hoped that the Secretary-General would call upon economists of the highest calibre and that the Secretariat had sufficient funds to attract such experts.

34. The PRESIDENT suggested that, while there was general support for the draft resolution, the Group of 77 should continue consultations after the meeting had risen so that the text could be adopted before the end of the day.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

49th meeting

Wednesday, 8 December 1993, at 4.55 p.m.

President: Mr. Martin HUSLID (Norway)

E/1993/SR.49

AGENDA ITEM 23

Committee for Development Planning (*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Group of Experts on Development" (E/1993/L.46), as set out in document E/1993/L.47.

2. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) said that a meeting of the Group of 77 had been held to consider the draft resolution (E/1993/L.46). A number of important concerns had emerged. First, the matter of regional and thematic balance had not been sufficiently delineated with regard to either the Group of Experts on Development or the panels of experts to be selected by the Secretary-General. Since the reports of those experts would have great bearing on the process that would follow, that was an issue of serious concern to the Group of 77. In the Group's view, regional and thematic balance must be guaranteed in the general roster as well as in the thematic panels. Secondly, while the preservation of the functions of the Committee for Development Planning was referred to in the preambular part of the draft resolution, it should also be included in the operative part, and be considered one of the responsibilities of the new group of experts. Thirdly, the creation of small panels of experts would make it difficult to arrive at a broad view of development and development planning, and a larger, interdisciplinary body of 20 to 25 experts might therefore be preferable. Fourthly, the Group of Experts on Development should be nominated by the Secretary-General and appointed by the Economic and Social Council, as was done in the case of the Committee for Development Planning.

3. Mr. ORLIANGE (France) inquired whether conducting its work in small panels and occasionally meeting in full plenary sessions was not the usual practice of the Committee for Development Planning.

4. Mrs. RUFFING (Secretary of the Committee for Development Planning) said that the small panel approach had indeed been the working modality of the Committee for Development Planning for many years. During the previous three years, three working groups had each prepared substantive chapters on a single theme that responded to interests of the Committee, intergovernmental bodies, the Council or the General Assembly itself. The plenary meetings had served to integrate those three working-group papers. The draft resolution departed from that practice only in that it proposed an increased number of working groups which could therefore interact more directly with the Council's agenda. She pointed out, as well, that the Committee for Development Planning did not adhere to a strict formula for geographical distribution. An attempt was made to reflect the membership of the Economic and Social Council, but with regard to the panels it had been deemed too difficult to combine expertise in subjects with geographical origin.

5. Mr. JARAMILLO CORREA (Colombia) welcomed the clarifications provided by the Secretary, and suggested that the membership of the Group of Experts on Development might be expanded from 24 to 40.

6. The PRESIDENT said that the question of enlarging the membership from 24 to 40 had not been raised before. He suggested that the Group of 77 should draft amendments, which could then be accommodated into the draft resolution at the remaining meetings of the substantive session.

7. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that one of the tasks before the United Nations was to establish equitable geographical distribution at all levels of the Organization, and the Council too was constrained to abide by that principle. Experts could be found in every region of the world. His delegation was willing to be flexible on all issues but that one.

8. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, commended the draft resolution and pointed out that much progress had been made in accommodating the views of the Group of 77, the European Union and others. Some of the legal points implicit in the text would perhaps, however, need to be made more clear. His delegation favoured spelling out the question of thematic balance; but since the Committee for Development Planning was not strictly speaking an intergovernmental body, more flexibility was permissible with regard to regional distribution. The principle governing the composition of the new Group of Experts on Development should, however, be

one of inclusion, not exclusion. Furthermore, his delegation felt that if the Group was so composed as to represent a broad spectrum of fields of expertise, and if the panels were carefully designed, that small-group approach should not preclude a holistic view. In any case it was not financially practical to hold frequent plenary sessions. Lastly, Belgium would be willing to participate in informal consultations on the draft resolution so as to enable it to be finalized by the end of 1993.

9. Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that her country commended the draft resolution. In response to the comments made by the representative of Colombia, she observed that the Group of Experts on Development would be somewhat different from the Committee for Development Planning in terms of its operation: the main function of the Committee would be subsumed by the Standing Panel, the functions of which Canada would, if necessary, be willing to consider expanding. The small panels were designed to supply trouble-shooting advice to intergovernmental bodies, but their mandates would be entirely in the hands of Governments.

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Group of 77 should prepare changes or additions to the draft resolution, with as much restraint as possible, and should present those specific amendments to him. It would also be useful for the Group to have some contact with the representatives of those countries that had been active in the discussion. Informal consultations could then be undertaken, and a decision perhaps reached by the end of the session.

11. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) inquired if he was correct in his understanding that such amendments would be made to draft resolution E/1993/L.46.

12. The PRESIDENT confirmed that such was the case.

13. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) stated that no clear, frank exchange of views had thus far taken place on the matter at hand; rather, it had been a confrontation of set ideas and biases. His delegation had not heard convincing arguments for the need to bring an end to the Committee for Development Planning, which could be improved by the introduction of such elements as an expanded constituency or the diversification of the areas of expertise. Morocco proposed that the Council should consider that approach, and suggested that the Group of 77 should also reflect on it during its consultations.

14. The PRESIDENT said that since the draft resolution had been prepared after long consultations, the Council should work on the basis of that document. If he heard no objections, he would therefore take it that the Committee wished to proceed in the manner he had described.

It was so decided.

Closure of the substantive session of 1993

15. The PRESIDENT declared closed the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.